THE NEW
INDIAN EXPRESS
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GIVES A PIECE OF HIS MIND TO THE WORLD

- PM Narendra Modi took a swipe at the **holier than thou attitude** of the world, wondering how long will they "continue to distribute certificates to us"
- Says **gender equality** is a crucial parameter of unity with the family as its foundation
- Salutes children who **say 'no' to imported toys**, says Aatmanirbhar Bharat runs through their veins
- Compliments the military for using an **indigenously developed howitzer** for the first time for the ceremonial 21-gun salute at the event
- **Hails India's diversity**, says people should be proud of every language of the country

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5-POINT AGENDA FOR THE NEXT 25 YEARS

THINK BIG
Make a big resolution to become developed India by 2047 when we celebrate the 100th year of Independence. Don't settle for anything less

'NO' TO SLAVERY
Slavery of hundreds of years forced us to keep our emotions tied up; developed distorted thinking in us. We must liberate ourselves from that mindset

RICH LEGACY
We should feel proud of our heritage and legacy. It is this rich heritage and legacy that transcends tests of tide and time. It embraces the new

UNITY, SOLIDARITY
Ensure unity and solidarity. When there is harmony, unity becomes its strongest virtue. The *Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat* scheme is a unifying initiative

CITIZENS' ROLE
Do your duty as a citizen. This virtue is going to be the vital life force if we want to achieve the dreams we have for the next 25 years

PM RAPS NEPOTISM, SETS DEVELOPED NATION GOAL

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the completion of 75 years of Independence was a time to step towards a new direction with a new resolve. Addressing the nation from Red Fort on the occasion of Independence Day, he set a series of goals for the next 25 years, adding India must be a developed nation by then.

"In the coming years, we've to focus on *Panch Pran* — first, to move forward with a resolve to realise the dream of developed India; second, erase all vestiges of colonialism; third, be proud of our legacy; fourth, leverage the strength of unity, and fifth, adhere to duties."

The PM called for a fight against corruption and dynasticism, saying they are the twin evils that need to be overcome. He said nepotism is hollowing out India's institutions and is leading to corruption.

"When I talk about nepotism, people think I am talking about politics only, but unfortunately, that evil in the political field has nurtured favouritism in every institutions of India," Modi said, adding many institutions have been affected by family rule. "It has harmed our talent and the nation's capability and given rise to corruption. It is our effort that those who have looted the country should be made to pay back. We need to fight corruption with all our might," he said.

"We are trying to bring back those who ran away after looting banks in the previous governments. We have seized their assets. Many people have been forced to live in jails... Even the big people will not be able to escape," Modi pointed out.

"Corruption is eating the country like termites.... This mindset is not going to change unless there is a feeling of *nafrat* (hatred) for corruption and the corrupt and people are forced to look down upon them socially," he added.

Hailing India as the mother of democracy, Modi also sought an immediate check on the growing tendency of misogyny and disrespect towards women. He said respect for women is an important pillar of India's growth. But the remarks led the opposition and activists to question the government over the on-ground implementation of various policies for women.

"It hurts me to say that we have witnessed a perversion in our day-to-day speaking, behaviour. We have been casually using language and words that are insulting to women. Can we not pledge to get rid of everything in our behaviour, culture and everyday life that humiliates and demeans women?" Modi asked. The PM said he could foresee a manifold increase in the stake of women in public life in the next 25 years, adding their potential was beyond assessment.

"If the efforts of our *nari shakti* are added to the hard work that is required to fulfil the dreams in this *Amrit Kaal*, then it will accelerate our growth. Our dreams will be more intense, vivacious and resplendent," he said.

CM ANNOUNCES JOBS FOR MARTYRS' FAMILIES

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Monday announced that the state government will provide jobs to the kin of martyrs, along with ₹25 lakh compensation. Hoisting the Tricolour at the Manekshaw Parade Ground, the CM added that government schools would get new toilets | P4

Don't trivialise sacrifices of our freedom fighters: Sonia

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

CONGRESS chief Sonia Gandhi on Monday hit out at the "self-obsessed" Narendra Modi government for "trivialising" the sacrifices of freedom fighters. "We have achieved a lot over the past 75 years but what can never be accepted is that the current self-obsessed government is hell-bent on trivialising the great sacrifices of our freedom fighters and the country's glorious achievements," she said.

The sharp reaction came a day after the BJP released a video carrying its version of the partition of India, for which it blamed the then Congress leadership.

Sonia said her party will strongly oppose any misrepresentation of history for political gains by putting icons of the Independence movement on the dock by peddling lies.

"Under the leadership of its visionary leaders, India established an independent, fair and transparent electoral system. It also strengthened democratic and constitutional institutions. Side by side, India made an identity for itself for always living up to the ideals of plurality of languages, religions and communities," she added.

KPCC chief DK Shivakumar, Congress Karnataka in-charge Randeep Surjewala and other leaders and workers take part in the party's Freedom Walk, as part of Independence Day celebrations, in Bengaluru on Monday | VINOD KUMAR T

Traffic mismanagement hits commuters hard

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THANKS to traffic jams across Bengaluru, the 76th Independence Day turned out to be a nightmare for many Bengalureans. Motorists were stuck in traffic blockages in various parts of city for multiple reasons.

The major cause behind the jams was a 7.5 km-long Congress rally from Kranteevara Sangoli Rayanna Circle near Majestic to National College Grounds in Basavanagudi.

While the rally brought the traffic to a grinding halt in the old CBD areas of the city, citizens coming from west Bengaluru to city central were stranded.

The traffic police had closed Anand Rao Circle flyover and also a portion of the Okalipuram flyover. Vehicular movement was diverted via Majestic bus stand, making it difficult for buses to leave the terminal. Commuters were forced to spend over two hours in traffic jams in and around Majestic.

The movement of vehicles was also affected in Vasanth Nagar, Queeen's Road and Shivajinagar as many were heading to take part in the Congress rally. P2,4

Ex-serviceman dies during flag-hoisting in DK

An ex-serviceman collapsed seconds before hoisting of the National Flag during the Independence Day celebrations at Kutrupady gram panchayat in Kadaba taluk of Dakshina Kannada district on Monday. He died on the way to hospital. The deceased has been identified as Gangadhar Gowda, aged 54 | P5

S'mogga tense over Savarkar, Tipu flexes

MARX TEJASWI @Shivamogga

TENSION prevailed in the communally-sensitive Shivamogga city, with one person being stabbed, marring the 76th Independence Day celebrations on Monday. A controversy erupted over flexes of V D Savarkar and Tipu Sultan placed at Amir Ahmed Circle. While the police attempted to disperse two groups from a confrontation, a 20-year-old youth was stabbed in another area of the city.

Official sources informed *The New Indian Express* that it all began when a group tried to put up a flex of Savarkar at Amir Ahmed Circle without getting permission from the authorities concerned. An argument ensued with the police, when they did not allow the flex to be put up at the circle. The group then tried to forcibly place the flex at the circle.

Later, police personnel along with the Shivamogga City Corporation managed to remove the flex. Meanwhile, in response, another crowd gathered and approached the circle insisting on putting up a flex of Tipu Sultan. The police did not allow that either. The police resorted to a mild lathi-charge when the group came close to the circle. The first group staged a dharna demanding permission to put up Savarkar's flex. Both the groups were dispersed and the police placed a national flag at the circle. However, while the police were controlling the mob at the circle, a youth identified as Prem Singh was stabbed at Gandhi Bazaar. He was attacked when he was returning after shutting a cloth shop he was working in. He was shifted to McGann Hospital for treatment.

A mob argues with police personnel at Amir Ahmed Circle in Shivamogga city on Monday | EXPRESS

The District Administration imposed Section 144 of CrPC in the city to maintain peace. Prohibitory orders were also issued at Bhadravathi town, which is also considered a communally-sensitive area.

Meanwhile, two people have been arrested for the stabbing. The accused are identified as Nadeem (25) and Abdul Rahman (25). P4

EXPRESS READ

Case against BJP leader for displaying flag upside down

Bengaluru: A complaint has been filed against BJP leader Anil Chalageri, president of Yeshwantpur assembly segment, for allegedly insulting the National Flag Code. Chalageri had allegedly put the flag upside down, the video of which went viral | P4

Flag hoisted for the first time at Chamarajpet Idgah Maidan

Bengaluru: For the first time since Independence, the Tricolour was hoisted at the disputed Chamarajpet Idgah Maidan here on Monday, at an event attended by Congress MLA BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan and BJP MP PC Mohan | P2

Bilkis Bano gangrape : All 11 convicts serving life released

Godhra: All the eleven convicts sentenced to life imprisonment in the 2002 post-Godhra Bilkis Bano gangrape case on Monday, walked out of the Godhra sub-jail after the Gujarat government allowed their release under its remission policy, an official said | P8

FLUTTER ON FLIGHT

'Bomber' text: Couple freed, tell cops it was just a joke

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Mangaluru

A man and a woman, who were taken into custody after they set off panic on a Mumbai-bound 6E-5237 Indigo flight by sharing suspicious WhatsApp messages on Sunday, were let off on Monday by Mangaluru police who served them a notice asking them to appear on a later date.

The duo told the police that the text messages were a mere joke.

The incident occurred on Sunday when the man who was on the flight and the woman who was at the airport terminal exchanged text messages.

K P Bhopanna, who works as a manager at the Mangaluru International Airport (MIA), lodged a complaint with Bajpe police on Sunday night saying that he received information from the airport staff that a passenger had received a suspicious text from a woman which read, "among all the Muslims, you are the bomber". The man replied to the message saying, "Can you see me. Did you see the salute. So cute, have a safe flight."

"I immediately alerted the CISF personnel. Personnel from CISF, BDDS, Indigo Security and technical staff took the flight to the Isolation Bay and passengers were deplaned", Bhopanna said in his complaint.

ILLUSTRATION: SOUMYADIP SINHA

The two accused spoke about causing danger to the security of the flight and a co-passenger noticed the messages and informed an airhostess and the pilot. The pilot then informed the ATC and the flight was stopped from taking off, the complaint stated.

Later, the passengers and their luggage were frisked but no suspicious item was found. The flight which was scheduled to depart at 11 am took off six hours later.

The man works in a company in Gujarat and the woman, Simran, is pursuing her studies.

A case has been registered by the Bajpe police.

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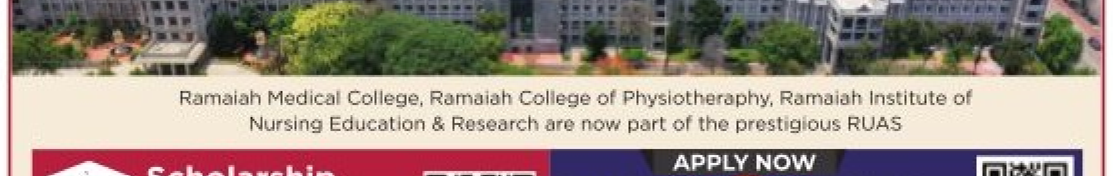
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ALMANAC TODAY
• **Tuesday:** 16/08/2022 • **Year:** Shubhakruta • **Ayana:** Dakshinayana
• **Ritu:** Varsha • **Masa:** Shravana • **Paksha:** Krishna • **Tithi:** Panchami 12.01 am
• **Nakshatra:** Revathi 1.39 am • Moon in Mesha Rashi • **Rahukaala:** 03:00 am to 04:30 am
• **Gulikakala:** 12:00 pm to 01:30 pm • **Yamaganda:** 09:00 am to 10:30 am

WEATHER | MIN 20°C | MAX 29°C
FORECAST Light rain. Decreasing cloudiness

Sunrise 6.07 am | Sunset 6.40 pm | Moonrise 10.07 pm | Moonset 9.55 am

Over 1.5L people at Cong march bring city to halt

Metro stations choked as party distributes 80,000 free tickets

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

OVER one lakh people, who took part in the 'Freedom Walk' organised by Congress to mark the 76th Independence Day on Monday, brought the city to its knees, causing major traffic snarls across the city.

The rally kicked off at the Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna Circle at Majestic in the afternoon in the presence of AICC General Secretary and Karnataka in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala, KPCC president DK Shivakumar, leader of opposition Siddaramaiah and other leaders. The atmosphere at the Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna Circle was electrifying with several troupes of folk artistes giving performances like Dollu Kunita, Veeragase and others.

Most top leaders of the party took part in the 7.5 km rally, encouraging people to walk with them. The rally went through the busiest roads and junctions in the city, like Seshadri Road, KR Circle, Nrupatunga Road, Corporation Circle, JC Road and Town Hall to reach the National College Grounds in Basavanagudi, where the rally culminated in the evening. Food packets and water bottles were distributed to the participants at the starting point and there were piles of at the scene later.

Congress, which was expecting around one lakh people, was overwhelmed as the number far exceeded their estimation. Congress workers from across the state, particularly from the neighbouring districts of Bengaluru and Old Mysuru, descended on the city. All the plans of organisers not to disturb the traffic went in vain as the number of participants was large. Congress sources said 1.07 lakh people had registered online for the event and roughly around 1.5 lakh people took part. The party had also booked 80,000 Metro tickets to facilitate free rides for the participants. Metro stations -- particularly Nagasandra, Kengeri and Silk Institute -- were full of Congress workers. Private buses were also arranged to drop off the workers at the starting point of the rally adding to the traffic mess.

Traffic grinds to a halt in the Central Business District, due to the Congress' Freedom Walk, in Bengaluru on Monday | EXPRESS

HOLIDAY, BUT MONDAY MORNING BLUES HAUNT CITY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

VEHICLES moved at a snail's pace as citizens parked their vehicles in front of Vidhana Soudha to take photographs/selfies with the seat of power in the background, which was illuminated in the Tricolour. Citizens heading to Raj Bhavan, which observed Open Day, also added to the woes of commuters.

Movement of vehicles coming from Bannerghatta Road to city central was hit as many were heading to Basavanagudi to take part in the Congress rally.

Another reason was people making a beeline for the annual Lalbagh flower show. Since it was the last day of the show, which is being held after a gap of two years due to Covid, citizens did not want to miss the show which was dedicated to Kannada movie icons Dr Rajkumar and his son, late Puneeth Rajkumar.

Those coming from Mysuru Road to the city were stranded due to a mega I-Day function held at Kanteerva Stadium.

Traffic around M G Road was also hit because of the Independence Day parade and the diversions made by the traffic police for the event. Traffic around Chamrajpet Idgah Maidan was hit as the police had cordoned off the area as the Tricolour was being hoisted at the ground for the first time since India's Independence.

Citizens were seen abusing traffic policemen, the government and the opposition parties for the traffic going haywire. People said alternative arrangements should have been made in advance.

CONG RALLY, FLOWER SHOW CROWDS THRONG METRO STATIONS, RIDERSHIP MAY CROSS 5L

Bengaluru: Bengaluru Metro's ridership surged on Monday as Congress had purchased 80,000 paper tickets to be distributed among their workers, who were taking part in the Freedom Walk, and visitors thronged the Independence Day Flower Show. It was expected to cross five lakh by the closure of operational hours. BMRCL MD Anjum Parwez told TNIE, "Congress had purchased 80,000 paper tickets, each at a flat Rs 30, for any station from the National College Metro station. This coupled with nearly 50,000 tickets purchased for the flower show at Lalbagh caused a surge in ridership." The ridership on a holiday is usually around 3.6 to 3.8 lakh. "We expect it to cross 5 lakh on Monday," he said.

Tricolour goes up at Idgah Maidan amid security

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

FOR the first time after Independence, the Tricolour was hoisted at the controversial Chamarajpet Idgah Maidan on Monday. The flag was hoisted as part of the diamond jubilee celebrations of India's Independence.

North Bengaluru Taluk Assistant Commissioner Shivanna from the revenue department hoisted the flag, and was accompanied by MLA BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan and MP PC Mohan.

The flag was hoisted at 8am, and students of Bruhat BBMP High School held a parade. The Chamarajpet Girls High School students held cultural programmes based on Onake Obavva and Kittur Rani Chennamma. The national and state anthems were also played. Zameer told the media after the programme, "The government decided to hoist the Tricolour now, but I had decided it two months ago. I am very happy that whatever I and the others had wished for, happened today."

On the question of Ganesha festival and other events to be held on the grounds, the MLA said that Republic Day and Kannada Rajyotsava will be celebrated here. "With regard to other events, since the revenue department has taken over the property, it is the prerogative of the government and should be questioned," he stated.

The Bengaluru Police Commissionerate had deployed one ACP, three inspectors and one KSRP platoon in the area since the past few days, to ensure there are no untoward incidents. A team from Rapid Action Force, SWAT and local police were deployed. On Monday, ahead of the event, three DCPs had inspected the area. Roads surrounding the ground were barricaded and no vehicles were allowed to park. In all, 250 policemen were pressed to maintain peace at the maidan during the flag-hosting event.

Armed security personnel keep vigil at the sensitive Idgah Maidan, where the Tricolour was hoisted on Monday | EXPRESS

CRACKS APPEAR IN HINDU GROUPS UNITY

When Rame Gowda, former Deputy Mayor representing Chamarajpete Nagarikara Vakoota, was appealing to police to allow them into the vicinity to witness the flag-hoisting, Shivakumar Naik from Vandemataram Organisation picked an argument and demanded that he be given credit for the flag being hoisted on the grounds. In a video, Naik can be seen being heckled by Gowda and other members. As the situation worsened, police dragged Shivakumar away and threatened to put him in a jeep.

Record 8.34L people flock to flower show, revenue touches ₹3.33 crore

Visitors wait to buy tickets for the Independence Day Flower Show at Lalbagh in Bengaluru on Monday | EXPRESS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE Lalbagh flower show, which was held after a gap of two years due to Covid-19, received an overwhelming response.

Lalbagh Joint Director K M Jagadesh said that on Sunday alone, the Lalbagh Botanical Gardens witnessed footfall of 1.56 lakh people, and revenue collection was Rs 78.07 lakh. The show this year was themed after actor Dr Rajkumar and Puneeth Rajkumar. It was stalled due to Covid cases in January this year, and as the situation improved, preparations began at a brisk pace for the Independence Day flower show.

Lalbagh Deputy Director Kusuma G said the show this time received better response than the 2020 Republic Day. "From August 5 till 7pm August 15, footfall was 8.34lakh and revenue collected was Rs 3.33 crore," Kusuma said.

"The show was a hit due to many factors -- the historical significance of Lalbagh, Puneeth Rajkumar, it was a long weekend, and people who missed the show last year were eagerly waiting," said Horticulture Minister Munirathna Naidu.

As the show revolved around Dr Rajkumar and Puneeth Rajkumar, 3.5 lakh stems of fine quality Dutch roses and standard chrysanthemums were used for the tiled roof and limestone wall concept for Dr Rajkumar's Gajanur house. Similarly, Puneeth Rajkumar's Shakthi Dhama, a replica, was designed using red Dutch roses and yellow standard chrysanthemums, as the colours represent Karnataka flag. In all, 2 lakh Dutch rose stems and chrysanthemums were used for this purpose.

Apart from these two replicas, a miniature version of Mantralaya's moola brindavana was designed using Dutch roses and chrysanthemums, and dedicated to Rajkumar.

According to Kalidas Raj who put up this theme at Lalbagh, the total project cost was Rs 32 lakh.

SCHOOLS CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE DAY IN UNIQUE WAYS

BENGALURU: Many schools and educational institutions celebrated the 75th year of Indian Independence in their own ways. While some chose to employ standard methods by hoisting flags, others brought prominence to the occasion to make the day special for children. Despite most schools not operating on Monday, the authorities took advantage of 'Har Ghar Tiranga' and adorned their premises with Tricolours and portraits of freedom fighters. Meanwhile, special cultural programmes were organised for children in schools. Schools like Canadian International School and Narayana Schools chose to bring out the importance of multiculturalism and diversity in India. Orchids International School took out a social awareness march. Bangalore University and Bengaluru City University celebrated the occasion with newly appointed BU VC Dr Jayakar S M saying the NEP stands testament to the progress that the country has made over the past 75 years.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

16TH August: If, like me, you're looking forward to going into space and travelling to the stars, then I reckon it should be possible to go as a paying commercial traveller within the decade. At the moment, the cheapest tickets cost more than most of us see in a lifetime. But, like anything else, prices should come down with time. Hopefully!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
Please do take great care with your finances. There seems to be little doubt that rash actions now could result in increased costs later. Somehow your emotional security also seems to be involved, but perhaps you need to remember how ultimately you can only rely on yourself.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
Extremely powerful planetary aspects signify that you are now sailing on uncharted waters. If you can possibly ask for help and advice, please do so. Pride is a quality you can usefully do without. It will only get you into worse difficulties. And, in any case, other people might actually have done better than you!

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
You can relax your efforts and allow others to do the arguing. No one has worked harder than you to keep the peace but now you deserve a little time to yourself. It is a fine moment to look after number one. After all, if you don't treat yourself well, you won't treat anyone else properly, either.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
The combined influences of those mighty planets, Saturn and Jupiter, are about to work another major change in your private affairs. You're probably sick of hearing that your life's about to be transformed, but you've also probably become blasé, about upheavals that knock others for six.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
Somebody has made all the right moves, but whether this is enough to placate you or make you change your ways is another matter. You are in a stubborn mood, but only you can decide whether you should stay as you are or bend a little. Perhaps you could do both!

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
The good news is that if you take a path of quiet meditation, devoted self-sacrifice and compromise, life will turn a very important corner and you'll end up with enhanced self-knowledge and understanding. And if you figure out your underlying motives, then you'll make the right decisions.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Although it may be an indirect approach which matters, you may be more impressed by a direct appeal for help. The point I am trying to make is that you are quite touchy and will respond irrationally to the precise manner in which others say and do things.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
If you're sensible, you'll consider eating humble pie, impressing others with your amazing contrition. You have much to be vain about, but overweening arrogance could cost you your happiness. If you're too complacent then you might just miss the most important developments.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
It's not the easiest thing in the world to come to grips with your solar chart at the moment. I am concerned that you may feel victimised or martyred. If so, please try and see what led you to this situation. Then you'll figure out how to get back to the way you were.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
Current planetary aspects will force you to accept that you have never made the most of your potential in certain ways. For example, have you ever truly shown the world the person you really are? I suspect that you haven't - but it's never too late to start.

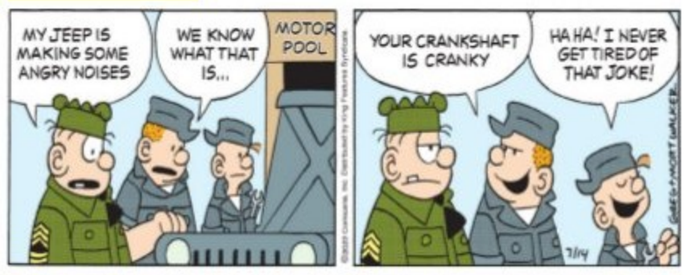
AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Isn't it better to stand on your own two feet? There is a definite need to look to your laurels now and not imagine that other people are going to bail you out. Close partners feel quite rightly that you must dig yourself out of whatever hole you have put yourself in.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
You may think you are being caring and considerate, but someone may be a little tired of what they see as your efforts to probe into their affairs. I'd say that discretion is now the order of the day. Total honesty may not be the best way to reveal secrets which can only cause consternation, so choose your words with care.

THE PHANTOM

HI AND LOIS

BEETLE BAILEY


MY JEEP IS MAKING SOME ANGRY NOISES
WE KNOW WHAT THAT IS...
MOTOR POOL
YOUR CRANKSHAFT IS CRANKY
HA HA! I NEVER GET TIRED OF THAT JOKE!

BLONDIE

CHECK OUT THE NEW MENU..."LOU'S MEGA-EXTREME LARDBURGER PLATTER WILL PUT PEP IN YOUR STEP AND GLIDE IN YOUR STRIDE..."
"...AND HOPEFULLY NOT SLUDGE IN YOUR TRUDGE"
SOMETIMES I WONDER IF I MISSED MY CALLING WRITING TV JINGLES

LOCKHORNS

DENNIS THE MENACE

SU DO KU

Medium: Test your number crunching skill with our unique puzzle

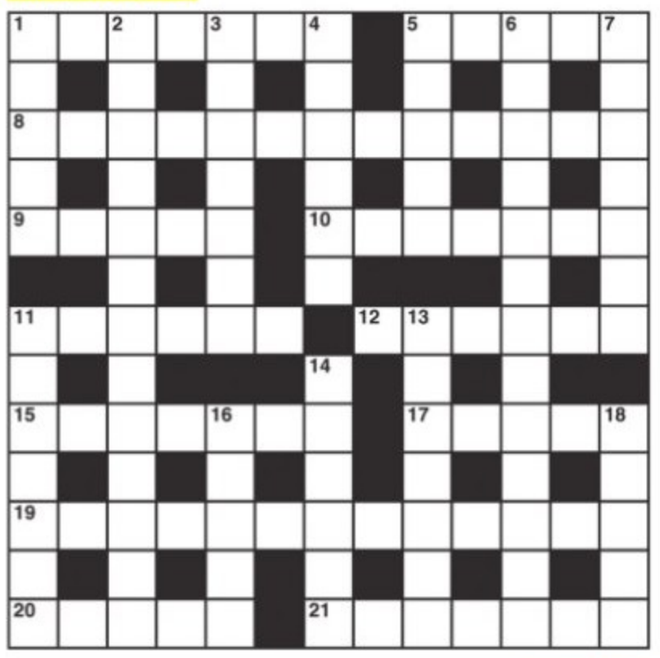
Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

		7						
		5		2	3	4		
			5	4	9		7	
	3		1	7		2		4
	7						5	
4		2		9	6		1	
	8		9	1	4			
		9	2	3		6		
						3		

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

5	7	2	9	1	4	6	3	8
4	9	3	2	6	8	1	7	5
6	1	8	3	5	7	9	4	2
2	3	7	1	8	6	4	5	9
1	8	4	5	7	9	2	6	3
9	5	6	4	2	3	7	8	1
3	6	5	7	9	1	8	2	4
7	2	9	8	4	5	3	1	6
8	4	1	6	3	2	5	9	7

CROSS WORD



ACROSS
1 Quantities of painkillers (7)
5 Ask me about various brands (5)
8 Where parts are put together for collecting? (8,5)
9 Grim end to a boat (5)
10 Give claim to name (7)
11 Odd desire to settle somewhere (6)
12 Provides a home for a small charge (6)
15 Is there at the start and finishes (7)
17 Green areas for golf clubs (5)
19 Manipulate boards to gain the ascendancy (4,3,6)
20 Gets up the slopes (5)
21 They deliver MP's note perhaps (7)

DOWN
1 Gets close in linear size (5)
2 Security men on board are weapons experts (7-2-4)
3 Men ride out dressed in fur (7)
4 Change put behind a mirror (6)
5 Desert strong point (5)
6 A poser for one who can't put on a dress tie? (6,7)
7 Better methods? (7)
11 Parson goes round a nuclear establishment (7)
13 They depend on cattle and the elderly (7)
14 Napping, the general is swallowed by a snake (6)
16 They're played in no set order (5)
18 Girl makes two points about western democracy (5)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Great, 8 Dismount, 9 Aster, 10 Integral, 11 Edict, 12 Asp, 16 Career, 17 Laurel, 18 Kay, 23 Snore, 24 New issue, 25 Miami, 26 Anecdote, 27 Feint.

Down: 2 Residual, 3 Agencies, 4 Giants, 5 Impel, 6 Quire, 7 Still, 12 Ark, 13 Ply, 14 Turnpike, 15 Ferryman, 19 Adults, 20 Incas, 21 Sweet, 22 Aside.

JUMBLE By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TPYET

NWIET

RONCEE

SCAAUB

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon

"_____-___"

ANSWERS TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S **Jumbles:**
FOAMY THREW WINERY OUTBID
ANSWER: The author of the book about the U.S. Interstate Highway System had the -- "WRITE" OF WAY

DURATION OF PANDEMIC	CASES REPORTED	DEATHS	DISCHARGES
2 YEARS, 160 DAYS	■ 1,206 ◄ 1,837	■ 0 | ◄ 3	■ 1,653 | ◄ 1,017
	TALLY	POSITIVITY RATE	MORTALITY RATE
■ TODAY	■ 40,32,489	■ 5.91% | ◄ 5.91%	■ 0.99% | ◄ 1.00%
◄ YESTERDAY	◄ 40,31,283	ACTIVE CASES ■ 10,475 ◄ 10,922	RECOVERY RATE ■ 98.74% ◄ 98.73%

B'luru Urban: 870	Chamarajanagar: 10	Dharwad: 8	Kolara: 18	Shivamogga: 5
B'luru Rural: 1	Chikkaballapur: 2	Gadag: 4	Koppal: 2	Tumakuru: 1
Bagalkot: 3	Chikkamagaluru: 42	Hassan: 3	Mandya: 20	Udupi: 5
Ballari: 38	Chitradurga: 4	Haveri: 0	Mysuru: 60	U Kannada: 3
Belagavi: 33	D Kannada: 10	Kalaburagi: 17	Raichur: 19	Vijayapura: 0
Bidar: 1	Davanagere: 3	Kodagu: 12	Ramanagara: 11	Yadgir: 1

Adalat settles 8.34L cases in a day

Authority sets record; Of the 8,34,620 cases settled, 1,53,024 cases were pending in various courts

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka State Legal Services Authority (KSLSA) set a new record by settling 8,34,620 cases amicably in a day at the national Lok Adalat, an alternative dispute resolution forum, held across the state on August 13. In June this year, KSLSA had created a record by settling 7,65,077 cases in a day at the Lok Adalat.

Briefing media on Monday, Justice B Veerappa of the Karnataka High Court, who is also Executive Chairman of KSLSA, said of the 8,34,620 cases settled, 1,53,024 cases were pending in various courts, and 6,81,596 cases were at pre-litigation stage, before various authorities across the state.

Expressing concern over some people misguiding litigants through social media, saying that petty offences like revenue cases do not come under the Lok Adalat, Justice Veerappa said that some people who are jealous of the big success of Lok Adalats, are misguiding the litigants, though "we are doing our service to the people by taking pre-litigation cases like traffic challans cases, revenue cases, etc., as per Section 19(5) of the Legal Services Authorities Act". He said the Adalat has fetched revenue of Rs 14.35 crore to the state's exchequer by disposing of 2,46,890 petty traffic violation cases, and 94,446 revenue cases regarding khata change, pension, etc., were taken up as pre-litigation and settled. As many as 8,571 cases of bank and money recovery were settled for Rs 25.08 crore, 95,756 electricity bills recovery and 78,716 water bills recovery cases were settled for a sum of Rs 13.58 crore and Rs 13.86 crore respectively, he added.

Justice B Veerappa of the Karnataka High Court, who is also chairman of the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority, at the Lok Adalat in Bengaluru recently

RERA cases settled

Justice Veerappa said that 80 cases pending before the Karnataka Real Estate Regulatory Authority and Real Estate Appellate Tribunal are disposed of, and Rs 48.40 lakh is paid as compensation. Similarly, 136 cases pending before consumer forums were disposed of for a total award of Rs 3.01 crore.

Reunion in matrimonial cases

Mentioning efforts made by conciliators to attempt settlement of matrimonial cases, Justice Veerappa said that a total of 1,380 matrimonial disputes were settled and more than 120 couples were reunited.

Some of the 7,178 cases under the Negotiable Instruments Act, 7,670 cases under civil disputes and 2,967 under motor vehicle accident claims were settled for a high amount. A 42-year-old partition suit pending in Karwar was also settled.

Flag hoisting turns fatal for techie

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

A 33-year-old software engineer, who was trying to hoist the Tricolour atop his house, died after accidentally falling off from the terrace in Nagavara on Sunday afternoon. The deceased Vishukumar, a resident of 18th Main in HBR Layout in Nagavara 5th block, was working with a software company in Bhartiya City.

The police said that around 1.45 om on Sunday, Vishukumar was reportedly sitting on the parapet tying a stick to hoist the national flag, and lost his balance, falling from a height of 30 feet. He was rushed to a nearby hospital by his family members but was declared brought dead. "Vishukumar's family is from Sullia in Dakshina Kannada district. He was married about four years ago, and they have a two-year-old daughter. He was staying with his parents. Based on the complaint filed by his father Narayan Bhat, we have registered an unnatural death case," Hennur police said.

Fly smooth: Beta version of DigiYatra app launched at KIA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

FOLLOWING successful completion of trial runs for years, the beta version of the DigiYatra app was rolled out by at the Kempegowda International Airport on Monday.

DigiYatra — the contactless, seamless processing of passengers at airports — based on the use of single token face biometrics for verification of passengers is a project of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Government of India.

An official release said, "For the first phase rollout of the DigiYatra Central Ecosystem (DYCE), Bengaluru airport is one of the two selected airports in India and passengers experienced this new-age, contactless and seamless process that commenced on 15th August 2022."

Passengers experienced a seamless check-in, passed through security, and boarded their respective flights using their single token face biometric for validating their identity and their boarding pass, it said.

Vistara and AirAsia are the two airlines that are currently integrated with DigiYatra. Passengers can easily enter the DigiYatra app from the comfort of their homes. The app is currently available on Google Playstore for Android users, and an iOS version will be made available in one month.

Bangalore International Airport Ltd (BIAL) has been pioneering the DigiYatra effort from its early concept days and pilot trials have been held since January 2017 at KIA, the release added.

The DigiYatra Biometric boarding system at e-gates is operational and being rolled out at full scale for all domestic airlines in a phased manner, covering checkpoints for domestic travel.

81 CONVICTS SET FREE IN K'TAKA ON I-DAY

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

AS part of the 76th Independence Day celebrations, 81 eligible convicts lodged at various prisons across the state were released on Monday. The number included three women.

The Ministry of Home Affairs had proposed to give special remission to certain categories of prisoners and release them in three phases — August 15, 2022 (Independence Day), January 26, 2023 (Republic Day) and August 15, 2023 (Independence Day) — and had issued guidelines to identify eligible convict prisoners by constituting State Level Screening Committee (SLSC).

Accordingly, the SLSC had recommended the release of 81 eligible convicts in the first phase and placed the recommendations before the state cabinet. Following approval from the governor, as many as 81 convicts were set free on the occasion of Independence Day on Monday.

TASTE OF FREEDOM

CENTRAL PRISON	No. OF CONVICTS
Bengaluru	14
Belagavi	3
Ballari	8
Vijayapura (including 2 women)	10
Dharwad	6
Kalaburagi	10
Mysuru	20
Shivamogga	9
Women Central Prison, S'mogga	1

Poor maintenance of RO plants: ZP CEOs rapped

YATHIRAJU @ Bengaluru

OBSERVING that providing potable water is a fundamental duty of the state and an integral right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution, Upa Lokayukta Justice KN Phaneendra has decided to initiate proceedings to direct the zilla panchayats to ensure functioning and periodic maintenance of Reverse Osmosis (RO) plants installed across the state, especially in fluoride-affected areas.

"Maintenance of RO plants vests with the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Department. As such, there was some delay in restoring and maintaining the plants due to non-availability of technical staff and laxity on the part of the contractors who are entrusted with the responsibility of maintaining the RO plants. This aspect needs to be addressed by the CEOs of zilla panchayats concerned," Justice Phaneendra said.

Expressing concern over the working and periodic maintenance of the RO plants installed in fluoride-affected areas in some districts of the state namely Kanakapura, Bagepalli, Gudibanda, Pavagada and other areas of Chitradurga, Chikkaballapura, Kolar and Tumakuru districts, he said, "It was necessary to direct CEOs of ZPs where the fluoride, nitrate and arsenic content is beyond the permissible limits in drinking water to take action."

The Upa Lokayukta's decision came after he took note of the RO plants installed in Jogihatti of Chitradurga district which were not maintained and had become defunct within a few days of installation, pushing villagers into misery.

SOME RESPITE, AT LAST

One stretch of the Shivananda Circle steel flyover was opened to the public for a trial run on Monday. The project was initially taken up at a cost of Rs 15 crore, and due to delay and escalation of material and labour costs, the budget escalated to Rs 40 crore. The project, known for inordinate delays, missed the August 15 deadline too | VINOD KUMAR

Thrashed by auto drivers for using bike taxi: Passenger

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

Furious over a passenger hiring a Rapido bike taxi to go home after arriving at the Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal(SMVT) at Baiyappanahalli, a gang of autorickshaw drivers allegedly assaulted him and the rider. The bike rider left the station in tears and did not work the rest of the day.

Narrating the incident to *The New Indian Express*, **Syed Mudassir**, who works as the Head of Operations at a real estate firm, said, "I had boarded the Hatia Express at Katpadi at 2 am on Monday. It arrived three hours late. As soon as I got out of SMVT at 4.45 am, I tried booking an Ola or Uber but could not find any. By 5 am I was able to book a Rapido bike taxi. He reached within five minutes."

High drama ensued after he sat pillion on the bike. "Just as the bike was leaving, an auto driver pushed me from behind and hit my neck. He screamed that I was not supposed to call bike taxis as they were illegal. He snatched my phone too and due to loss of balance both I and the bike rider, Mohammed Sharif, fell down. His feet got trapped underneath his bike and he was shouting for help."

"Later, the auto driver was joined by five other drivers waiting nearby who started raining blows on us. The rider was crying and pleading for mercy. One of them had my phone and I snatched it and ran outside the station," he added. Giving photos of the bruises he suffered due to being pushed off the bike, Mudassir added, "My internal injuries are extreme. I have severe pain in the back, shoulder and leg. I slept the whole day due to the pain."

Mudassir later went out of the SMVT station, took a share auto and reached his destination near Cantonment railway station. Sharif confirmed that he was beaten up by auto drivers. "Both my legs have got severe injuries. They damaged my bike very badly. There was not a single cop to help us inside the station. Finally, I found one policeman (Chandrashekhar) outside and told him I wanted to file a case. I was told to bring the footage of the incident and come and file a complaint at the Baiyappanahalli police station."

Bengaluru Divisional Railway Manager Shyam Singh said the station had security with Railway Protection Force personnel posted there. He also said he was not aware of any such incident. Both the RPF and the Government Railway Police were completely in the dark about it.

Baiyappanahalli Inspector Venkatachalaiah said SMVT would come under the Banaswadi police station limits and he would speak to the Inspector there about it. "No cop has the rights to tell a victim to bring footage proof. We will look into it," he said.

POSSESSION NOTICE

WHEREAS, the authorized officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** (Formerly known as Janalakshmi Financial Services Limited)., under the Securitization And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued demand notices to the borrower(s)/ Co-borrower (s) calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned against the respective names together with interest thereon at the applicable rates as mentioned in the said notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notices, along with future interest as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred till the date of payment and/ or realisation.

Sr. No.	Loan No.	Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	13(2) Notice Date/ Outstanding Due (in Rs.) as on	Date/Time & Type of Possession
1	45349430000554 & 45349430000962	1) Mr. Ramaiah N. 2) Mrs. Kavitha R.	05.05.2022 & Rs.14,14,517.40 & Rs.1,15,406.70 as on 05.05.2022	10.08.2022, 01.53 p.m. Symbolic Possession
	Description of the Property: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Kaneshumari Khatha No.47/1, Property No.152900402002600072 Measuring East to West 11.43 Meter, North to South 5.50 meter, Totally measuring 62.70 Sq.Meters situated at Manchanayakanahalli Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk, Ramanagar District **and Bounded on: East by:** Road, **West by:** Krishnappa House, **North by:** V. Krishnappa House, **South by:** Yashodha House.			
2	47469420000792	1) Mr. Sridhar V., 2) Mr. Venkatesh B. R. 3) Mrs. Kowsalya	19.04.2022 & Rs.44,28,865.36 as on 19.04.2022	11.08.2022, 03.40 p.m. Symbolic Possession
	Description of the Property: All that piece and parcel of the immovable NORTHERN PORTION of House Property bearing No.33, Katha No.62/1, Situated at ChunchaghattaVillage, UttarahalliHobll, Bangalore South Taluk, Presently this property comes under Juisdiction of Konanakunte Ward No.195, Bangalore-560 062, Chunchaghatta, Beereshwara Nagar, 10th Cross, Presently BBMP Katha Serial No.186, Katha No.62/1/33, Property No.33, And **bounded on the: East by:** Site Nos.21 and 22, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Site No.34, **South by:** Remaining Southern portion of Same Property No.33, In measuring East to West: 30-0 [Thirty] Feet and North to South: 20-0 [Twenty] Feet, in all measuring 600 [Six Hundred] Square Feet., comprising of Ground Floor, First Floor, Second Floor and Third Floor, Totally 1650 Squares R.C.C. Roofed, wall constructed with using brick and cement, Jungle wood doors and windows, Granite flooring, with all civic amenities therein.			
3	32509440000010, 32509670000023, 32509670000091 & 32509670000381	1) M/s. Sona Water Solution 2) Raheel Ahamed, 3) Arshiya R.	23.05.2022 & Rs.8,95,505.72, Rs.1,31,336.70, Rs.44,780/- & Rs.92,349/- as on 17.05.2022	11.08.2022, 01.47 p.m. Symbolic Possession
	Description of the Property: Item No.1: All the piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No.83, old khata no.156/40, new Janzar No.1253, situated at Hulimangala Village, JiganiHobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District **and bounded by the: East by:** Private Property No.08, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Site No.84, **South by:** Site No.82. Measuring East to West 30 ft. and North to South 20 ft. totally measuring 600 Sq.Ft. **Item No.2:** All the piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No.82, Old Khata No.156/40, situated at Hulimangala Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District **and bounded by the: East by:** Private Property No.81, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Site No.83, **South by:** Road. Measuring East to West 30 ft. and North to South 20 ft. totally measuring 600 Sq.Ft.			
4	79189430000152& 45349430000899	1) Mr. Venkataravana S. 2) Mrs. Pavithra	24.05.2022 & Rs.18,26,176.82 & Rs.1,67,795.70 as on 17-05-2022	11.08.2022, 02.45 p.m. Symbolic Possession
	Description of the Property: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing site No.29 &30, property no.102P, Khaneshumari No.465, New Khatha No.692 measuring East to west 16 Feet and North to south 40 feet Totally measuring 640 Sq.Ft. situated at Bannerughatta Village, Bannerugatta gram panchayath, JiganiHobli, Anekallaluk Bangalore District **and bounded on the: East by:** Same Number property belongings to Shivakumar, **West by:** Remaining portion of same property, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Private propertys.			
5	45348950002780, 45349670000508& 45349670000225	1) LAKSHMI PATHI N. Prop N S Fresh Look Ladies Beauty Parlour, 2) Mr. Lakshmi Pathi N.	30.05.2022 Rs.10,97,088/-, Rs.1,55,521.82 & Rs.56,802 as on 17.05.2022	11.08.2022, 01.10 p.m. Symbolic Possession
	Description of the Property: All the Peace and Parcel of the Immovable Property Bearing Vacant Site No.1018, Out of Katha No. 341, Formed in Converted land Bearing Survey Nos. 172, Converted for Non-Agriculture industrial (Hi-Tech) purposes as per Official Memorandum Bearing No.ALN (ASH)SR/95/2012-13, Dated 03.09.2013 issued by the Assistant Commissioner, Bangalore District, Situated at Chikka Nagamangala Village , Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Rural district , Measuring East to West : 27'-6" (Twenty Seven Feet Six Inches), North to South: 30'-0" (Thirty Feet) in all total measuring 825 Square Feet, **and bounded as follows: East by:** Land bearing Sy.No.171, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Site No.1019			
6	45389420000839	1) Mr. H. B. Abhijith, 2) Mr. H. B. Anil Kumar, 3) Geethamma B., 4) Basavarajappa N.	19.05.2022 & Rs.49,41,722.45 as on 05.05.2022	11.08.2022, 10.45 a.m. Symbolic Possession
	Description of the Property: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Assessment No.3, Khatha No.235, measuring East to West 30 ft. and North to South 42.5 ft. total measuring 1275 sq. ft. situated at Nelagadaharanahalli Village, Yashwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk and Presently within the limits of BBMP **and Bounded on: East by:** Property belongs to Sathyanarayana, **West by:** Others property, **North by:** Others property, **South by:** 20 feet wide Road.			
7	45378956264780& 45379670000142	1) Shahnaz Pasha, 2) Ajaaz Pasha	27.04.2022 & Rs.6,19,056.44/- & Rs.1,52,729/- as on 27-04-2022	12.08.2022, 01.30 p.m. Symbolic Possession
	Description of the Property: Item No.1: All that piece and parcel of property bearing Northern Portion of site No. 9 measuring East to West 15 Ft. and North to South 40 Ft. in all totally measuring 600 sq. ft. in Katha No. 412, Property No.61, situated at Devasandra Village (Near Masjid Road), K. R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk (earlier Bangalore South Taluk and K.R. Puram CMC Limits Ward No.17 now within BBMP Limits, Ward No.55, Bangalore, **and bounded on the: East by:** Site No.8, **West by:** Site No.10, **North by:** 16 ft. Wide Road, **South by:** Remaining portion of Site No.9. **Item No.2:** All that piece and parcel of property bearing Western portion of site No. 8, measuring East to West 6.66 Ft. and North to South 30 Ft. in all totally measuring 200 Sq. ft. in Katha No. 412, Property No.61, situated at Devasandra Village (Near Masjid Road), K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk (earlier Bangalore South Taluk and K. R. Puram CMC Limits Ward No.17) now within BBMP Limits, Ward No. 55, Bangalore and together **bounded on the: East by:** Remaining Portion of Site No.8 and property of Sri. Amjad, **West by:** Site No.9, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Remaining portion of Site No.8.			
8	45349430000502 & 45349430000426	1) Mr. Kumaravelu R. 2) Mrs. Amudha	18.01.2022, Rs.9,87,234.60 & Rs.7,60,741.8/- as on 09.01.2022	12.08.2022, 02.50 p.m. Symbolic Possession
	Description of the Property: All the Piece and PARCEL OF the Property, Bearing Khatha No. 774/3, site No.9 Northern portion, Situated at Baiyapanahally Krishnarajapura Hobli, Bangalore south Taluk and measuring East to west 30' ft and North to south 20' Feet and along with 1 Sq.Ft. A.C sheet roofed house thereon. **East By:** Site No.14, **West by:** 20 Feet Road, **North by:** Site No.8, **South by:** Selvas Property. Boundaries measuring east to west 30 feet and north to south 20 feet totally measuring 600 sq.ft.			
9	45339440000032 & 31839670000138	1) Mrs. Shruthi K 2) Mr. Ramesh G.B.	24.05.2022 & Rs.9,11,079.12 & Rs.1,39,945/- as on17-05-2022	13.08.2022, 09.05 a.m. Symbolic Possession
	Description of the Property: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing western portion of Southern side of Site Nos.113, 114 and 115, Assessment No.1181, Khatha No.32, situated at Hommadevanahalli Village, Doddathoguru Grama Panchayath, Beguru Hobali, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore District, **and bounded by the:- East by:** 15 feet wide Road, **West by:** Property No.105 and 102, **North by:** Mohammed Rafee and Khader pasha's property, **South by:** Private property, Measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South Eastern side 24 feet and western side 23 feet, total measuring 705 Sq.ft.			
10	47469420000996	1) Lakshmanachar N., 2) Mrs. Pramilamma L., 3) Bharath Kumar S.	21.04.2022 & Rs.19,40,487.69 as on 21.04.2022	11.08.2022, 12.30 p.m. Symbolic Possession
	Description of the Property: All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Site No.54/3, Khatha No.54/3, Situated at BidareAgrahara @ Chinnagenahalli Village, BidarahalliHobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore. **East by:** Road, **West by:** Munithayappa and his childern's property, **South by:** Remaining portion of same property belongs to Smt. Umadevi, **North by:** Sri. Mallappa and his Children's Property. Measuring East to West (28+29)/2 feet and North to South (25.2+25.7)/2 feet in all total measuring 725.325 Sq.ft.			
11	30198640002937, 30199660001114, 45369660000035 & 30199660003923	1) M/s. Bharat Traders 2)Mrs. Mubeena	28.05.2022 & Rs.45,19,798.89, Rs.5,04,770.94, Rs.4,54,113/- & Rs.3,23,719/- as on17.05.2022	11.08.2022, 12.15 p.m. Symbolic Possession
	Description of the Property: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No.11 Assessment No.140/2 Katha No.140/2-11/1135 situated at 1st Main 5th Cross Subhas Layout BBMP Ward No.24 Kacharknahalli village Kasabahobli Bangalore North Taluk Nr.HBR Railway gate Kalyan Nagar post Bangalore-560043. Measuring East to west 30 feet and North to South 25 feet Totally measuring 750 Sq.Ft. **East by:** 15 Feet Road, **West by:** Private Property, **North by:** Private Property, **South by:** Private Property.			
12	30198649518951& 30199660001917	1) M/s. Divya Enterprises, 2) Venkatesh K., 3) Mrs. Vimala P. K.	27.04.2022 & Rs.24,54,720.10 & Rs.4,75,000/- as on 27-04-2022	12.08.2022, 03.00 p.m. Symbolic Possession
	Description of the Property: Item No.1: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No.20, Katha No.4, in Assessment No.27/3, 4 comes under Hurulichikkanahalli Village Panchayat, situated at Tharabanahalli Village, Hesaraghatta Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, **bounded on the: East by:** Site No.19, **West by:** Site no. 21, **North by:** 30 feet Road, **South by:** Others property. Measuring East to West: 30 ft. and North to South: 48 ft. in total measuring 1440 Sq.Ft. **Item No.2:** All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No. 40, Katha No. 46, in Assessment No.32 comes under Hurulichikkanahalli Village Panchayat, situated at Tharabanahalli Village, Hesaraghatta Hobli, Bangalore North taluk, **bounded on the: East by:** Site No.35, **West by:** 25 feet Road, **North by:** Site No.39, **South by:** Site No.41. Measuring East to West: 40 ft. and North to South: 30 ft. in total measuring 1200 Sq.ft.			

Whereas the Borrower's/Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors, mentioned herein above have failed to repay the amounts due, notice is hereby given to the Borrower's mentioned herein above in particular and to the Public in general that the authorised officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** has **taken possession** of the properties/secured assets described herein above in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the dates mentioned above. The Borrower's/Co-Borrower's/Guarantor's/ Mortgagors mentioned herein above in particular and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the aforesaid properties/Secured Assets and any dealings with the said properties/ Secured assets will be subject to the charge of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited.**

Place: Bangalore	**Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Date: 13.08.2022	**For. Jana Small Finance Bank Limited**

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK
(A scheduled commercial bank)

Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No. 10/1,11/2 &12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071. Branch Office: Divyashree Chambers, #11, O'Shaughnessy Road, 5th Floor, "A" Wing, Off Langford Road, Shanthi Nagar, Bengaluru-560025.

JDS leader and former chief minister HD Kumaraswamy on Monday blamed the BJP for the country's partition. He said the BJP was responsible for the division of the country, but was now blaming the first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru

(From left) Artistes perform at the Independence Day celebrations at the Manekshaw Parade Ground in Bengaluru on Monday; A trooper parachutes down; MEG personnel show off their physique | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

A Tricolour measuring 1.30 lakh feet in length, 204 feet in height and 630 feet in width on display at M V Stadium in Kolar on Monday

Govt will give jobs, relief to martyrs' families: Bommai

Anonymous fighters brought us true freedom, says Chief Minister

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

ON the 76th Independence Day celebrations on Monday, Chief minister Basavaraj Bommai announced that the state government will provide jobs and Rs 25 lak compensation to the families of martyrs. He said toilets will be constructed at all government schools by next year's Independence Day.

After hoisting the flag at Manekshaw Parade Ground, he said it is the government's duty to provide a job to one member of a martyr's family and the order will be sent to their doorsteps. He said the government will launch new schemes for the sanitation and nutrition of farmers, labourers and soldiers. For the school toilet scheme, the government has allocated Rs 250 crore. The Vidya Nidhi, a scholarship programme, will be extended to the children of landless agricultural labourers, apart from children of farmers , fisherman, weavers and taxi drivers.

A loan-cum-subsidy scheme of up to Rs 50,000 was announced to support potters, blacksmiths, carpenters, sculptors, basket weavers, artisans and others. The government is committed to start 4,050 new anganwadis to take care of children of 16 lakh landless labourers to provide them with nutrition and early education. This will create job opportunities for 8,100 women.

He chanted the mantra of 3Es -- employment, education and empowerment -- to uplift SC/STs, backward classes, women and minorities.

CM Basavaraj Bommai receives the guard of honour in Bengaluru on Monday

'We've not forgotten Nehru'

Bommai waded into the controversy over leaving out Jawaharlal Nehru's photo from a government-sponsored advert, saying anonymous freedom fighters gave India its independence.

At the Amrit Bharati Karunada Fair at Kanteerava Indoor Stadium, he said the leaders who led the struggle were Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Veer Savarkar, Mahatma Gandhi, Subhas Chandra Bose, Bhagat Singh, Lala Lajpat Rai, Chandrashekhar Azad, Tantya Tope, Kittur Rani Channamma and Sangolli Rayanna. "No one can change the history of the freedom struggle. But those who write history have changed it. The time has come to tell the truth. In Bengaluru alone, 25 people lost their lives, but their names are not found anywhere. Narayan B, a 12-year-old boy from Hubballi, was shot dead for chanting Vande Mataram. Those who took part in the Salt Satyagraha of Ankola and Isur Satyagraha were condemned to death, but their names are missing. The Amrit Mahotsav should be dedicated to thousands of anonymous fighters. The Partition took place on the very day of Independence. There is no greater tragedy," he added.

"The government yesterday put out pictures of activists who were never seen before. For 65 years, the country was run in Nehru's name. We have not forgotten him. There is respect for him. The advert also has a picture of Nehru," he said.

No to bulletproof box: CM

Bommai chose to give his speech without any barrier. The security authorities had put up a bulletproof box next to the flag, but he asked them to remove it.

Congress keeps momentum going, sees big response to Freedom Walk

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI
@ Bengaluru

CONGRESS could not have gotten a better opportunity than the 75th anniversary of the country's Independence to organise its rank and file and take out the Freedom Walk to boost their morale ahead of the 2023 Assembly polls.

Though the party termed the event apolitical, speeches from the leaders targeting BJP at the valedictory clearly indicated that the principal opposition party is ready to take on the ruling BJP government, led by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai.

Congress seems to have kept the momentum going, starting with the Mekedatu padayatra, demanding the implementation of a balancing reservoir project on Cauvery River in the Old Mysuru region and the massive birthday bash of Leader of Opposition Siddaramaiah at Davanagere on August 3.

Congress leaders at the National College Grounds in Bengaluru on Monday where the party's 'Freedom Walk' culminated | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

The events promoted the personality cult of Siddaramaiah and KPCC president DK Shivakumar, a Congress leader observed. "But the Freedom Walk in the state capital has visibly given an impression that it was a party event giving the much-needed fillip to workers," he added.

Next in the series is 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', which will be led by senior party leader Rahul Gandhi and cover the entire state. It will start from Chamrajanagarand culminate in Bidar in September, just six months before the 2023 Assembly elections.

The Freedom Walk on Monday was a big success also because Assembly ticket aspirants brought in a large number of followers from their constituencies to impress the party top brass.

"The Lambani (SC) community is drifting away from Congress. We are with the party as its leadership is responsible for what we are today and living with self-dignity as per the Constitution," said Savitabai Malleshnaik, a ticket aspirant from the Mayakonda Assembly seat in Davanagere district. Party leader Dr CS Dwarakanath said nomadic tribes who had never seen the state capital got a chance to do so on Monday.

The 7.5 km 'padayatra' was kickstarted at Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna railway station in which thousands of workers and leaders took part.

Need another freedom struggle, says Surjewala

ENS @ Bengaluru

AICC general secretary and Karnataka in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala on Monday took an indirect dig at the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre, saying there was need for another freedom struggle to save democracy. He alleged that the Central government has been systematically attacking the Constitution.

"The battle for freedom is not over, there is an attack on democracy, scientific temper and Constitutional institutions," he said, at the valedictory of 'Freedom Walk' in Bengaluru.

He also criticised the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign, and said freedom brings about equality among all sections of society, especially Dalits and minorities, and give jobs to the unemployed. Surjewala alleged that the country is being run by oppressing women, the poor and Dalits, treating minorities as second-class citizens and dividing people on lines of caste and creed.

Leader of Opposition in the Council BK Hariprasad alleged that PM Modi has been dismantling the Constitution.

DKS salutes Modi

KPCC president D K Shivakumar came down heavily on Karnataka CM Basavaraj Bommai for leaving out the photograph of India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, from government advertisements. "I never expected this from Bommai, but will salute Modi for taking Nehru's name in his Independence Day speech," he remarked. "Despite the progress we made in the past 75 years, inequality has prevailed. Congress workers should take an oath to safeguard the Constitution and democracy," he advised.

He said 1.07 lakh people who registered online to take part, will get certificates of appreciation in digital format. "You can download them. Those who have not registered will also get certificates if they participated," he promised.

Colleagues attack minister over audio leak

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA Law and Parliamentary Minister **JC Madhuswamy**'s recent audio leak is continuing to draw criticism from his colleagues.

Madhuswamy, who was speaking to a person in the audio clip, hears out a complaint about Rs 1,300 being charged for renewal of a Rs 50,000 loan from a private person.

In response, Madhuswamy said the minister concerned, S T Somashekar, to whose notice this had been brought, had done nothing about it. Expressing unhappiness over Madhuswamy's statement that the state government is moving slowly, Hassan district minister Gopalaiah said on Monday that he "shouldn't have spoken loosely".

Meanwhile, Horticulture Minister Munirathna said in Kolar, "Being a responsible minister, he should not have commented like that. He should resign."

Congress daydreaming, BJP will retain power in 2023, says BSY

ENS @ Bengaluru

FORMER Chief Minister and senior BJP leader BS Yediyurappa said the Congress leaders in Karnataka are under the false belief that the party will come to power in the state after the 2023 Assembly elections and they are fighting among themselves for the chief minister's post.

"The BJP will go to polls under the collective leadership and again form the government by winning 140 seats," Yediyurappa said while addressing BJP workers during the Independence Day celebrations on Monday. Yediyurappa said BJP leaders will travel across Karnataka and expose the Congress. "The Congress leaders have become arrogant. They are under the false impression that they have already come to power and are fighting for the Chief Minister's post," Yediyurappa said. CM Basavaraj Bommai is doing good work and the BJP will go to people with development works implemented by the State Government and that would suffocate the Congress, he added.

Jnanendra held Gandhi's portrait to wear shoes?

Tumakuru: Home Minister Araga Jnanendra allegedly leant on the portrait of Mahatma Gandhi to wear his shoes at the official Independence Day celebration at the Junior College Grounds in Tumakuru. After receiving the guard of honour, Jnanendra, who is the district in-charge minister, removed his shoes to present floral tributes to Gandhi and held the portrait while wearing the shoes back. The picture and the video went viral.

BJP leader goes FB live with upside down Tricolour, complaint filed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

BJP leader Anil Chalageri, president of Yeshwantpur assembly segment, has landed in trouble for allegedly insulting the National Flag Code on a Facebook Live video, during the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign last week.

The leader had put the flag upside down, with the green stripe above and saffron below. The leader was reminded by one of his followers to take down the video, but by the time he could, screen shots of the goof-up had gone viral, and a complaint was filed at Kengeri station. Chalageri was heavily trolled on social media. S Sudarshan, general secretary, KHB Nagarikara Kshemabivridhi Sangha, who is one of the complainants, said the incident happened on August 9, and a complaint was filed with Kengeri police on August 10.

"The FIR is pending due to manpower shortage, security arrangements for I-Day, and because I fell sick for four days. It will be registered in a day or two," said Sudarshan. Kengeri police say the FIR is pending for more evidence from the complainant.

Anil Chalageri was active during PM Modi's Bengaluru visit, and was monitoring preparations at Kommaghatta.

ROW OVER PHOTO

SDPI flays Savarkar's pic in I-Day event, makes school apologise

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mangaluru

SDPI members objected to the use of a VD Savarkar's portrait at an Independence Day programme and made school authorities, who had organised a dance programme, to apologise at Gurupura near Mangaluru on Monday.

Rajesh, a member of the Gurupura Panchayat, said that a few SDPI members objected to the Savarkar's portrait used during a dance performance by the students, and the local police had to intervene. Some panchayat members belonging to BJP filed complaints with Panchayat Development Officer Abubakkar and the police.

Abubakkar told *The New Indian Express* that members from both the ruling and opposition parties have lodged complaints with him. "Six members from the ruling party, who were watching the programme of the panchayat, opposed the use of Savarkar's portrait. The cultural programme was presented by Bethany School. Ten minutes after the dance performanceended, some panchayat members went to the stage and took the school teachers to task. They even made the school headmistress apologise for using the portrait. After a few hours, members belonging to the opposition questioned as to why school authorities had to apologise and demanded action against the earlier team of members. I have informed the police and we will see what action can be taken," he said.

> Six members from the ruling party, who were watching the programme of the panchayat, opposed the use of Savarkar's portrait
>
> Abubakkar, Panchayat Development Officer

The panchayat has 28 members and SDPI and Congress, which have 10 members each, are in a coalition and are in power. BJP, which has eight seats, sits in the opposition.

Meanwhile, unauthorised naming of a circle in Surathkal after Savarkar stoked another controversy on Monday. Some miscreants had put up a board naming the junction near Surathkal flyover as 'Veer Savarkar Circle' on Sunday night. Some locals who noticed it on Monday, questioned the authorities. The police said the poster was removed by the Mangaluru City Corporation after opposition from locals.

Schools to remain shut in S'mogga today

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

SCHOOLS and colleges will remain closed in Shivamogga and Bhadravathi urban areas on Tuesday. The Shivamogga district Superintendent of Police B M Laxmi Prasad and other senior officers monitored the situation.

"We are requesting the public not to move around unnecessarily. Any violations of the curfew order will be seriously dealt with. We are continuing to monitor the situation. No arrests have been made yet. We are trying to identify the accused," the SP said. Additional police forces were brought from neighbouring districts to control the situation. Earlier, on Saturday, a verbal duel took place over placing Savarkar's portrait alongside those of several other freedom fighters at a shopping mall in Shivamogga city. A group forced the mall staff to remove the portrait. Later, BJP protested and a case was registered against the accused.

The Nuzvid town police have arrested five people, including a house owner, for digging inside a house in Gollapalli village in Vijayawada in search of 'hidden treasure' on Monday. The accused Vendantham Srinivasa Rao and four others were caught red handed while digging a pit following instructions of a priest

It's welfare, not freebies: KCR corrects PM on I-Day

Says Modi govt trying to run down schemes announced by states

Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao arrives for the 75th Independence Day celebrations at Golconda Fort in Hyderabad on Monday | EXPRESS

S BACHAN JEET SINGH @ Hyderabad

CHIEF Minister K Chandrashekar Rao came down heavily on the Narendra Modi government in his Independence Day address for diluting the nation's federal spirit and running down welfare schemes of states by terming them as "freebies".

Addressing people from Golconda Fort after unfurling the National Flag on the occasion of the I-Day celebrations, Rao said that public welfare is the main responsibility of governments. On one hand, the Centre was not fulfilling that responsibility properly and then insulting welfare schemes provided to the poor by branding them as "freebies".

The Modi government, said Rao, was acting against the federal spirit and centralising powers. It had made a mockery of the provision of the Constitution that "India is a union of States", Rao alleged. He accused the Centre of plotting to weaken states economically and imposing indiscriminate taxation on citizens. The CM called upon people to be alert and thwart attempts of disruptive forces promoting religious hatred.

Rao elaborated in his speech that the Centre had been collecting huge revenues in the form of cess rather than taxes with the "malicious intent" of reducing the share given to states.

The Centre was denying a fair share of 41 per cent of taxes to the states. Due to the cess and other forms of indirect taxation. It had denied about 11.4 per cent of its revenue to States in 2022-23 which was gross injustice, said the Chief Minister. He also found fault with the Centre's decisions like the cut in FRBM loan limit.

Rao went on to say in his speech that the Centre was taking decisions on various subjects without discussing them with states. Thereafter, states were being pressurised to implement them. He cited the example of the Farm Bills which led to country-wide protests by farmers forcing the Prime Minister himself to publicly apologise and withdraw the draconian laws, Rao said.

He also criticised the Centre for the recent changes in GST rates. Starting from milk for infants to construction of crematoriums, the Central government was levying taxes everywhere, putting a huge burden on the poor and the middle-class, the CM opined.

Congress slams Rao for 'tissue of lies' in speech

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Hyderabad

TELANGANA Pradesh Congress Committee chief A Revanth Reddy on Monday accused Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao of engineering defections of Opposition sarpanches and other elected representatives into the TRS in the by-poll-bound Munugode Assembly segment. He said that the Chief Minister had turned State politics into a "defections testing centre".

In a video that he released, Revanth said that the Chief Minister should have developed the constituency and implemented welfare schemes to seek votes, and then the people would have respected him.

"However, as usual, KCR is trying to buy Opposition elected representatives including sarpanches and MPTCs," he said.

He appealed to Congress leaders not to leave the party as he believed that the party has a fair chance of coming into power. He said that he would visit Munugode on the occasion of Rajiv Gandhi's birth anniversary on August 20. Revanth, who tested positive for Covid-19, hoisted the National Flag at his residence.

In another statement, Congress MP N Uttam Kumar Reddy said that KCR's Independence Day speech was "full of lies, empty promises and false claims."

He spoke to the media at the 'Azadi Ka Garvav Yatra' in which he along with AICC secretary Nadeem Javed, TPCC working presidents Mahesh Kumar Goud, Dr J Geetha Reddy and Anjan Kumar Yadav participated. Uttam said that the CM had not mentioned anything about his failed promises but made huge promises while delivering the Independence Day speech.

KCR skips guv's 'At Home' event

Hyderabad: Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao skipped the "At Home" programme at Raj Bhavan in the last minute. Though, the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said that Rao would attend 'At Home', his programme was cancelled in the last minute. However, the reason behind cancellation of his visit to Raj Bhavan were not known. As the CMO informed Raj Bhavan that the Chief Minister was attending At Home at 7 pm, Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan waited for him for half an hour. As Rao cancelled his visit, no Minister or politician from TRS attended the function. **ENS**

Ex-jawan collapses, dies at I-Day event

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mangaluru

AN ex-serviceman collapsed and died seconds before hoisting the National Flag during the Independence Day celebrations at Kutrupady gram panchayat in Kadaba taluk of Dakshina Kannada district on Monday. The tragic incident occurred when **Gangadhar Gowda**, 54, was guiding the guests and the residents prior to flag hoisting on Monday.

After guiding them, he is seen standing near the flagpole and directs the guest to hoist the flag in the video that went viral. When the guests get ready to hoist the flag, Gowda suddenly collapses and the guests and the residents rush to his help.

Gowda was rushed to a nearby hospital but he died on the way. His family members, friends and people, including students from Kadaba and neighboring villages visited tahsildar office where his mortal remains were kept for public viewing.

The ex-servicemen too offered their tributes. People who gathered there raised slogans like 'Gangadhar Amar Rahe', 'Bharat Matha Ki Jai'. The mortal remains were brought in a procession from Tahsildar office to the town. The final rites were held at his native Amai in Mulimajalu village in Kadaba on Monday. The reason for the death is suspected to be cardiac arrest.

Gangadhar Gowda served in the Army for 18 years and retired in 2016. He is survived by wife Chandravathi, daughters Nishma, an engineering student, and Athmi, a PU student.

BACK TO OLDEN DAYS

To commemorate Independence Day, Southern Railway operated a heritage run of the oldest steam locomotive in the country from Egmore in Chennai to Kodambakkam on Monday | ASHWIN PRASATH

Mandya authorities take revenge, refuse to give certificates to students

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

A LARGE contingent of children from 18 teams had to protest to get themselves included in the Independence Day parade at the Sir M Visvesvaraya Stadium in Mandya on Monday. But the authorities, taking revenge against young children from higher primary classes, did not give them prizes and certificates later, as is done every year.

SP N Yatish tries to pacify the protesting students in Mandya on Monday

The officials tried to cut short the parade as Revenue Minister R Ashoka had told the organisers that he had just 30 minutes for the programme and he would leave for Bengaluru soon after hoisting the flag.

Before starting the programme, the officials made an announcement that 18 teams will not be part of the parade. Infuriated students rushed near the dais and questioned the authorities. The children said, "We have been practising for the last two months and missed classes for practice. How can you drop us from the parade event," they questioned.

Superintendent of Police N Yatish told the children to end the protest. "I know that it is your teachers who instigated you. I know what to do," he shouted at them. But when Ashoka arrived at the venue, the authorities allowed the children to participate.

The issue did not end there, and when the time came to distribute prizes and certificates, the names of children from the 18 teams were left out. At the same time, students from high school and college categories got their certificates and prizes. There were no prizes and certificates also fol nearly 600 children, who performed in cultural programmes, disappointing them and their teachers.

Covid +ve Kharge regrets skipping I-Day

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Kalaburagi

LEADER of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge said that he is deeply saddened at not being able to attend the Independence Day celebrations for the first time. Kharge tested positive for Covid-19 three days ago and hence was unable to participate in the Independence Day celebrations.

In a press note on Monday, Kharge said in spite of not being able to be physically present on the occasion, he will join the celebrations in spirit and with pride. "Since my childhood, I never missed an opportunity to be a part of Independence Day celebrations and over the last 50 years, I have been a part of state celebrations of the Independence Day," Kharge said.

Kharge said his social background and personal experiences make him apprehensive that the hard fought independence, political and social freedom and rights of every citizen can be lost very quickly if people are not vigilant about the threats to the country.

He also said he is one of the few people in parliament who was born before the Independence of India. Even though India won her freedom in 1947, not all regions became free at the same time. The erstwhile Hyderabad Karnataka Region where he came from, became free only a year later on September 17, 1948, Kharge said.

Bharat Biotech completes trials for India's first intranasal Covid vax

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

HYDERABAD-based Bharat Biotech on Monday announced it had completed clinical development for Phase III trials and booster doses for BBV154 intranasal Covid vaccine.

The adenoviral intranasal vaccine BBV154 is the first of its kind Covid-19 vaccine to undergo human trials in India."BBV154 has proven to be safe, well-tolerated and immunogenic in subjects in controlled clinical trials," the pharma company said in a statement.

Two separate and simultaneous clinical trials were conducted to evaluate BBV154 as a primary dose (two-dose) schedule, and a heterologous booster dose for subjects who have previously received two doses of the two commonly administered Covid vaccines in India.

The trials for the primary dose were conducted among 3,100 subjects in 14 trial sites across India, while the heterologous booster dose was done at nine trial sites among 875 subjects.

Data from both Phase III human clinical trials have been submitted for approval to National Regulatory Authorities, the company said.

Being an intranasal vaccine, BBV154 may produce local antibodies in the upper respiratory tract, which may provide the potential to reduce infection and transmission. Further studies are being planned, it added.

EXPRESS READ

Statues of Chola kings missing in Ulundurpet

Kallakurichi: Statues of two Chola kings from the 12th century have allegedly gone missing from Neivenai village in Ulundurpet taluk of Kallakurichi, according to a complaint filed by archeology enthusiast and writer K Senguttuvan, here on Sunday. Senguttuvan claimed that the idols, which were located to the Sornakadeswarar Temple in Neivanai according to some history books, were missing from the spot when he went there for a field visit in July. The Ulundurpet police have filed a case and the Idol Wing police have started the probe. **ENS**

Khammam TRS leader hacked to death

Khammam: On a day when the entire country was rejoicing in the Independence Day celebrations, the residents of Teladarupalli in Khammam rural mandal were shaken by the ghastly murder of TRS leader Tammineni Krishnaiah on Monday. Four assailants waylaid Krishnaiah and hacked him to death in broad daylight. Ironically, the gruesome murder was committed when Krishnaiah was returning on a bike, with his car driver K Muthesam as pillion, immediately after unfurling the national flag at Ponnekal Rythu Vedika. **ENS**

Kalaburagi dist records highest crop loss in K'taka

RAMAKRISHNA BADSESHI
@ Kalaburagi

KALABURAGI district has reported the highest crop loss compared to other districts in the state as per the joint preliminary survey conducted by different departments and the report has been submitted to the government, highly placed sources in the Agriculture Department told Express on Monday.

According to the preliminary survey, 3,46,004.91 hectares of land (of the total 60,59,558.47 hectares sown area) has been affected due to heavy rains and flood in the State. The crop loss is around 5.71 percent in the State.

Gadag district stands second in the crop loss in the joint survey with 91,158 hectares of land (of the 3,17,012 hectares of sown area) has been affected (28.76 %) followed by Dharwad district in which 89,148 hectares (of the total 273218.22 hectares sown area) land has been affected due to rains (32.63 %).

Sources said that as per the preliminary survey in Kalyana Karnataka Region, standing crops in 1,11,435 hectares (of the 7,75,430 hectares sown area) has been affected due to heavy rains (which comes to about 14.37 %) in Kalaburagi district. In Bidar district 33,650 hectares (of the 37,864 hectares sown area) of land has been affected (about 9%), in Yadgir district 12,181 hectares (of the 2,86,933 hectares of sown area) of land has been affected (about 4.25 % of the land).

In Vijayanagar 1527.82 hectares (of the 2,36,464 hectares sown area) of land has been affected (around 0.65 %). In Raichur district, 347 hectares (of the 35,5475 hectares of sown area) of land has been affected (around 0.10 %). In Koppal district, 268.26 hectares (of the 284349 hectares of sown area) of land has been affected (around 0.09 %) and in Bellari district 68.19 hectares (of the 80,573 hectares sown area) of the land has been affected (around 0.08 %).

The joint survey was conducted by Agriculture, Horticulture and Revenue departments.

Five killed as car rams tanker in Bidar district

BIDAR: Five people were killed on the spot and five others were injured in a road accident on National Highway-65 near Bhangur village in Bidar district on Monday evening. The deceased are Jagadish (35), Giridhar (45), Priya (15), Anita (30) and Mehala (2). The five injured have been rushed to Bidar Institute of Medical Sciences hospital. All of them hail from Begumpet in Hyderabad. The accident took place when the victims' car were travelling from Hyderabad to Ghangapur in Kalaburagi district, hit a tanker. **ENS**

SAFE HAVEN

Rooting for blackbucks, locals seek reserve in Vijayapura

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

WHILE the Karnataka government is working on taking over deemed forest patches and converting them to revenue lands, in Vijayapura, the situation is different.

The locals are demanding that a portion of the revenue land be merged with private lands and be declared a Blackbuck Community Reserve. If all goes well, this will be second community reserve in Karnataka, after Kokrebellur in Mandya district. It will also be the second community blackbuck reserve in India after Rajasthan, where the Bishnoi community plays a crucial role in blackbuck conservation. Karnataka has two blackbuck sanctuaries—Ranebennur and Bankapur.

A blackbuck at a farmland in Hubballi | EXPRESS

"Usually it is the forest department which works on getting an area declared as a conservation or community reserve, but here it is the locals who are coming forward asking for it," said Vanitha R, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Vijayapura.

The forest department is now working on preparing a draft to be placed before the state government for clearance. The area proposed is 45 acres of revenue land in Balluli in Belagavi. The area also covers five villages spread across a 10-km radius.

The advantage of declaring a community reserve is that locals will be involved in conservation and they will be duly compensated for crop loss. So far, the department has received 50 crop loss compensation applications.

The disadvantage before the department is the area. "It is not a continuous patch. The population and area proposed to be declared is spread across five villages," Vanitha said.

Declaration of a community reserve is listed under section 36 of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. The government can declare an area as a community reserve which has been volunteered by a community or individuals to declare an area, which is not comprised within a national park or a sanctuary or a conservation reserve, for protecting the flora, fauna and traditional or cultural conservation values and practices. The only difference to a conservation reserve, is that the area is chosen by the forest department and locals play no role in conservation efforts.

Locals and officials say that it is also an interesting speculation of how the Black Bucks came here. Some say that around six years back a devotee left three Black Bucks near Siddeshwara temple, which have now multiplied manifold. Some others say a herd wandered around and reached here. The place is a safe haven for them as there are no predators, baring a few leopards that have been sighted here.

EDITORIAL

Better remain silent, better not even think, if you are not prepared to act

Annie Besant

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

THE MANTRAS AND TANTRAS OF FREEDOM

High-minded idealism and the grittier realm of pragmatism always move together like two contrapuntal lines. The times when this produces the most virtuous results come when they attain a harmonic synergy, mutually reinforcing each other. This contrasts with occasions when they are inert to each other or actively in conflict. It is difficult to disagree with the truisms that underlay PM Narendra Modi's customary Independence Day address to the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort.

To paraphrase, *azadi* is not a constant, once achieved, and needs to be perennially renewed through individual and collective striving. He called for a "panchpran"—Five Resolves—which India needs to actualise as it journeys towards a more accomplished future, making the transition from a developing nation to a developed one. Harking back to the negative vestiges of the past, he sought a collective fashioning of tools for change. The resolves are beyond reproach by themselves: a blend of pride, duty, and freedom from servile attitudes. But in doing so, he imparted a pugnacious political edge to his words.

Casting a retrospective glance at the past, he reprised familiar rhetoric, identifying dynastic politics and corruption as the two evils that hollow out the country's polity and institutions, closely followed by a related evil: nepotism. Needless to say, this had the effect of turning his speech into a focused attack on the Opposition—since the ruling BJP presents itself as a departure from the norm on those counts. That ended up eliciting sharp reactions.

The more unexceptionable parts of his speech—where he recalled the contribution of leaders from various walks of life and ideologies during the freedom struggle—were left a bit obscured in the cloud of dust that hung over the air finally. The reality check for the citizen may finally lie in trying to derive ways to realise another ideal: unity in diversity.

AFGHAN BLACK HOLE STAYS THAT WAY

As India celebrates its 75th year of independence on August 15, neighbouring Afghanistan observes the first anniversary of the second coming of the dreaded Taliban. This day last year, the Taliban usurped power in the wake of the American troop withdrawal, enveloping the country in a dark cloak of oppressive obscurantism. The day leaves a lot for Afghans to yearn, not celebrate. Today, half the population lives under the poverty line. Even the foreign aid helping feed the millions went out of the window after the Ukraine war started and the West found a new villain in Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Hardly any promise the Taliban made on restoring civil liberties as compared to its brutal rule in the 1990s—to get international recognition—has fructified yet. The Afghan economy is expected to contract by more than 20% partly because women have been taken out of the workforce after reimposition of the strictest interpretation of the *Shariat*. A recent protest by a small bunch of brave women demanding bread, work and freedom was brutally crushed in Kabul.

The internal security situation in the countryside is a mess as the trigger-happy Taliban militia only believe in the law of the jungle. Trained government officials have been eliminated in hundreds, depriving the administration of its skilled workforce. Dozens of journalists, too, have been shot dead. Perhaps the only thriving enterprise is terror, another promise the Taliban made to control. The recent assassination of al-Qaeda chief Ayman al-Zawahiri in a Kabul safehouse that belongs to an aide of the Haqqani brothers—part of the Taliban government—showed how intertwined terror outfits are at their roots.

Under such trying circumstances India is tentatively restoring its presence in Kabul. Officials inspecting the embassy recently were surprised that the stuff they left behind in locked compartments during their hurried exit a year ago was not disturbed. Like its outreach to Lanka, India sent initial consignments of food aid to Kabul, and intends to expand it. The black hole of Taliban rule cannot be wished away, but the people shouldn't be abandoned either.

Independence is always accompanied by the litany of patriotism. It is not Independence but its consequence, the nation-state, that becomes the glorified entity

A TALE OF THREE CONCEPTS IN INDEPENDENT INDIA

SHIV VISVANATHAN

Social scientist associated with THE COMPOST HEAP, a group researching alternative imaginations

Commemorations of Independence often become insipid revivals of memory, mere mnemonics acting as symbolic mothballs. It is time we open such events to critique and discourse, rereading them so that they add value to the future. Even epics cannot be a mere recital of events. We need to psychoanalyse the discourses and contexts behind the events. Consider Independence Day itself. It is bad theatre, emphasising inanity, reinforced by insipid politicians. But what if we were to open up the concept to a different kind of exegesis? Let us treat concepts as scripts unfolding possibilities and read them philosophically. The tragedy of worlds can be better caught in the words that embody them.

Consider how India reads Independence. Independence is read as a part of a triad of concepts, the other two being freedom and liberty. Freedom and liberty float more abstractly, but for Indians, Independence is always an event. It announces the birth of a nation-state and thus, presents a collective celebration. Freedom gets drained out by the nation-state from a wide collection of alternatives and possibilities to a sense of the rules for a nation-state. As a result, free-floating concepts like Independence get sanitised.

Independence here is also negative; it is freedom from. You disconnect to be. Such a concept often gets frozen and reified. A sense of liberation is lost as we parochialise the concept, and surround it with a grammar of insulating terms. Independence is Independence of and for the state. It is memorialised in collective terms and demands a collective commitment. Independence is always accompanied by the litany of patriotism. It is not Independence but its consequence, the nation-state, that becomes the glorified entity. Independence, rather than becoming an epic goal or a sacrificial drama, gradually becomes bureaucratised, conformist, more a certificate of entry into a club of nations, a rationale for membership into the UN, a claim to geography and sovereignty as territory. The rituals of certification become more sacrosanct than the concept. A dullness and coercion creep in.

Imagine one were to cite the historian Dharampal in this context. Dharampal suggested on the basis of his archival research that secession was the first right of citizenship. Villagers in the 16th-century world abandoned homes if the ruler was too coercive, and often he had to run after them and beg them to come back. Secession as a possibility is no longer built into the idea of Independence. Independence freezes a political reality allowing no part to secede. This leads to atrocities like the AFSPA.

India is not too prone to science fiction. Imagine when India was being assembled by Sardar Patel. Imagine a weaker Patel loses out to C P Ramaswami, and Kerala is a different country. Would the South as an idea have been a different possibility? Would the idea of Independence have been conceived less monolithically? The sadness of Independence as a reified concept creates its own paradoxes and ironies, and today, a majoritarian India celebrating 75 is too obtuse to realise this, that a historical epic called Independence is degenerating into an irony of authoritarianism, costing lives in the Northeast and Kashmir. Imagine Independence had that internal generosity. India would have been a different story. Maybe each of the triad of concepts we began with needs a different kind of storytelling to sustain them.

If Independence has a sense of history and collectivity, freedom appears more abstract and free-floating. Freedom seems to deal more with individuals and civil society. If Independence is freedom from, freedom claims to be more freedom for. Freedom is more a space for dreaming possibilities. It needs a different sense of metaphysics. It evokes a sense of the playful and the unpredictable, while Independence seems a specific project, the way we constructed it.

Think of Modi on Lal Qila. His speech sounds prosaic, repetitive. Independence is a didactic lecture, a catechism of official concepts, not a story of surprises and possibilities. The sadness lies both in the nostalgia and the concept. It is a world we have lost than a possibility we sustain and nurture.

Freedom appears to operate at several levels. It is abstract, a set of linguistic possibilities, an actual articulation of speech acts. Freedom evokes performance, possibility, and an epidemic of interpretations. Think of the Tunisian uprising or the protest at Tiananmen square. Freedom commands an expanding semiotic. Freedom emphasises freedom for; it is always an articulation of a possibility. If Independence is a fait accompli, freedom articulates possibility, understands the sense of resistance. If Independence indicates a collectivity, freedom moves towards wholes. It can never be in fragments. It encompasses the site, the field. If Independence is a defined project, freedom is a poetics of effervescence, of hope, an explosion of possibilities. It is a festival, a celebration, a carnival that makes even power topsy turvy. It has a poetics that the two other concepts do not fully possess. It exudes a sense of the catalytic.

File picture of the swearing-in ceremony of Jawaharlal Nehru as the first prime minister of India by Governor-General Lord Mountbatten

Saying one is free goes beyond boundaries and targets. Freedom combines possibility and creativity. We hardly use the word in India, preferring discipline, rights which are more corseted terms. Freedom hints at the unexpected. Movements and manifestoes emphasise freedom. Independence draws its limits as boundaries. Liberty explores a particular space. Freedom is more exuberant, and we have lost this exuberance, whether we talk of science or childhood or play or art. Freedom as it hints at the uncontrolled, appeals little to the puritan restraints of Independence or citizenship. It is a word one uses with caution as it evokes license. Sexual freedom invites taboo. Scientific freedom demands accountability. Childhood demands the realism of adulthood. In fact, our social distancing from freedom has limited our creativity over the last few decades. Freedom reincarnates as license, loses its charisma, and becomes a threat, especially in the way we discuss the body or morals or even mysticism. Freedom to the powerful is a misbehavioural science. Freedom as a metaphysic needs articulation phenomenologically as being and becoming. It needs a language beyond management, or even spirituality, which in India has degenerated into a second order of management. Freedom needs a recurrence of the primordial, not the mere receptivity of discipline or technique. It is seen as too enzymatic to control. We are not only losing freedom but the languages of freedom. This is the real sadness of independent India. Freedom has a sense of the mystical that an India dependent on social sciences wishes to avoid. Freedom demands a different music.

We need a third category to transcend the dualism of the duo. We need to go beyond binaries to a different thesaurus of politics. Liberty becomes a welcome term in this context.

Liberty as a term evokes possibilities and limits. It is both specific and convivial and evokes the social of citizenship, not the anarchy of freedom. It oozes rights which are specific demands. It is more thinkable as a social science. Liberty evokes humanity and citizenship. It implies civics. The Greek sense of liberty evokes civitas both as a city and civilisation. Rights and liberties serve as doubles in this civics discourse. Liberty is a sign and possibility of civics and citizenship as ways of life. If freedom is a state of being intended in its phenomenology of experiencing, liberty is an external state of freedom from a specific control. Liberty is freedom from restraint and restriction imposed by the state on ways of life, livelihood and living. Freedom in that sense is an inner state of mind, while liberty is the outer sociological condition.

The language of discourse at the level of scholarship and the public has focused more on the rights and liberties and on Independence. Freedom is seen more as an ought, a mythical condition. This has consequences. Independence tolerates federalism but has no sense of dissent, secession or decentralisation. For Independence to survive, the state as the centre of surveillance must hold. Independence evokes nostalgia, a sense of communitas the state does not provide for. Liberty has become more of a lesson in civics. Sometimes to confront it, we talk of pursuing majoritarian values, which is one way of saying we prefer the authoritarian.

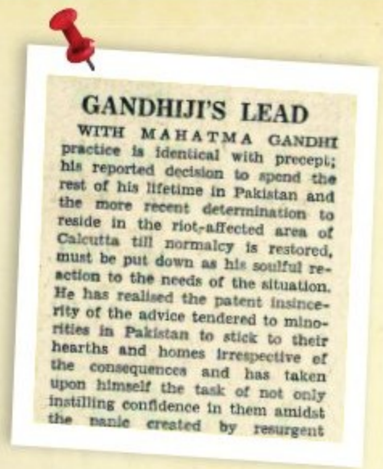
One can witness it in the civics of rituals. Freedom is seen as abstract. The search for human rights is seen as a pursuit of harassment. Human rights activists are seen as non-convivial, in fact, anti-civic, urban Naxals who do not appreciate the expertise of the state, and the comforts it provides. The human rights activist is anti-civics, anti-social. The state becomes supreme. Independence is for the state; freedom is for abstract individuals, not a minority, marginal or human rights activists. The urban Naxal is not even human, so to offer him rights is to violate civics.

Oddly in a paradoxical way, all three concepts fail the victim or the rights activists. Democracy has no space for specific victims, only abstract individuals. Rights in an everyday sense don't seem to work. The irony is the short circuit in meaning that all three terms create, making rights elusive and democracy remote. Our courts have to understand that freedom demands a classic exegesis that cannot be left to the whims of spectators, clerks and consumers. It is time we remove the tinsel of Independence and explore the real sense of freedom. The freedom movement has culminated in a deep vulnerability where citizenship succumbs to tyranny at short notice. This August, we are celebrating the irony of concepts created as life-giving concepts but are now silent on life itself. The tragedy of the political lies there.

(svcsds@gmail.com)

From our archives

Here is an editorial published on August 14, 1947, on Gandhiji's gesture to restore communal harmony disturbed following partition



GANDHIJI'S LEAD

WITH MAHATMA GANDHI practice is identical with precept; his reported decision to spend the rest of his lifetime in Pakistan and the more recent determination to reside in the riot-affected area of Calcutta till normalcy is restored, must be put down as his soulful reaction to the needs of the situation. He has realised the patent insincerity of the advice tendered to minorities in Pakistan to stick to their hearths and homes irrespective of the consequences and has taken upon himself the task of not only instilling confidence in them amidst the panic created by resurgent

Since "Islam in Danger" and other slogans have lost their validity with the emergence of Pakistan, people and governments must realise that what is henceforward more important is social justice which is equally important for the well-being of Muslims as much as to Hindus

GANDHIJI'S LEAD

With Mahatma Gandhi, practice is identical with precept; his reported decision to spend the rest of his lifetime in Pakistan and the more recent determination to reside in the riot-affected area of Calcutta till normalcy is restored must be put down as his soulful reaction to the needs of the situation. He has realised the patent insincerity of the advice tendered to minorities in Pakistan to stick to their hearths and homes irrespective of the consequences and has taken upon himself the task of not only instilling confidence in them amidst the panic created by resurgent communalism but of enforcing a certain amount of rectitude in the administration. For, there is little doubt that all the professed goodwill of the Pakistan authorities towards the minorities in their charge has failed either to restore peace or to reassure the minorities; large-scale migration of non-Muslims have taken place or continue to take place. Gandhi's decision is therefore a challenge to the theory of hostages as much as the tendency, if any, to communal hegemony. Since allegations of aggression have emanated from Muslim quarters in Calcutta, the priority given to that city in the Mahatma's itinerary has a special significance not lost on Hindus no less than on Muslims. They should both understand that the situation today constitutes a challenge to the majority community in each case, in as much as if the majority ignores the susceptibilities of the minorities, it would only be driving fears overground instead of harnessing loyalty for building a great nation.

Governments in India and in Pakistan, have, in their own interest, the obligation to dissipate fear and suspicion among the minorities. Gandhi's mission on the present occasion is to bring home to them the urgency of the situation. He has taken upon himself the duty of proving by example that the only way to achieve a working compromise is by living in the riot-affected localities and taking all the attendant risks upon himself. The task is hazardous indeed; there never was more need for caution in the utterances for leaders, but Gandhiji's gesture would have served half its purpose if it would stimulate the right sense of responsibility among them. As we see it, one of the first results of Gandhiji's decision should be the immediate cessation of non-Muslim influx from Pakistan and vice-versa which, unless arrested promptly, would affect trade, industry, commerce, agriculture—in fact the entire economy of both India and Pakistan. Gandhiji will also be able to affect the policy and ideals of Pakistan if he resides in it, more than he would had he continued in his original abode in India. Since "Islam in Danger" and other slogans have lost their validity with the emergence of Pakistan, people and governments must realise that what is henceforward more important is social justice which is equally important for the well-being of Muslims as much as to Hindus. Anything calculated to ensure this consummation, ultimately to be realised in a joint endeavour by both India and Pakistan, must be promoted. Emphasis on this community of interest is bound to bring the Hindus and Muslims closer to each other, and the reunion of India and Pakistan will be brought nearer. Gandhiji's mission is intended to hasten the day of this reunion. The least that the people of India and Pakistan must do under the circumstances is to wish him success and render assistance in every manner possible.

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

India of the past

Apropos of *Indian democracy is now the rule of a few, for fewer, by the fewest* (August 14). It was a pleasant experience to read this excellent article. The evolution of Indian democracy is well analysed. The newer generation is not aware of the Parliament in its early years—the ministers would hear what every representative had to say patiently and carefully. As has been pointed out in this column, there was a time when it was Congress versus none. Although the leaders could have turned into autocrats, they chose democracy.

Dr M Haneef, Kottayam

House for everyone

It is good to see the ongoing debate over 'Har Ghar Tiranga'. If the Central government can indulge in great development works like building the 296 km-long Bundelkhand Expressway over the course of the pandemic, I hope they come up with 'Apna Ghar', and build houses for the poor. Happy Independence Day.

Charis Xavier, Thiruvananthapuram

Ungrateful nation

It's disconcerting to learn that the Sri Lankan government has allowed a high-tech Chinese research ship to dock at a Sri Lankan port. There's a possibility of the ship's tracking systems attempting to snoop on India's installations on its way to the Sri Lankan port. And the island nation has completely ignored India's concerns. What a pity that the country, whom India has been helping in its ongoing economic crisis, is being so ungrateful!

P G Menon, Chennai

India on alert

While Sri Lanka allows the Chinese ship to dock at its port, it has clearly expressed that while India is its neighbour, China is its biggest lender. It is clearly caught in a difficult situation. But India cannot be fooled, considering its icy relationship with China. This may just very well be a case of Sri Lanka trying to please its biggest lender.

Neha Poniya, Koraput

Hurling slippers

This is with reference to *Hurling slipper on minister convoy not acceptable behaviour: Annamalai* (August 15). Tamil Nadu Finance Minister Palanivel Thiagarajan may have provoked cadres by questioning what right AIADMK and BJP cadres had to attend the funeral. But it was wrong of the BJP cadres to hurl slippers, that too when everyone had gathered to pay their last respects to an army man. The BJP needs to do away with belligerent elements like this and get its cadres in line. Politics has to change in this country.

G Nataraja Perumal, email

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Amit Shah @AmitShah
PM reiterating his commitment towards women empowerment said that only our mother power will take pride of the nation to new heights ahead.

Prashant Bhushan @pbhushan1
On our 75th Independence Day, remember those who fought for our independence. Are we free of hunger, hate prejudice? What do we need to do?

Shashi Tharoor @ShashiTharoor
Britain not ready for brown PM. But let's not forget how many Indians reacted to the prospect of Sonia Gandhi as PM here.

India too big & strong to be insecure: EAM

S Jaishankar says India is a $3trillion economy and fifth largest in the world, so capable of overcoming challenges

THE instability in the world is a challenge to national security and the Modi government is making every effort to address it, said the External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar while responding to a question on the current global situation in the face of the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the Chinese expansionist manoeuvres on India's eastern borders and the Indian Ocean. "India is a $3trillion economy and the fifth largest economy in the world. We should not doubt ourselves and feel insecure. We are big and strong enough to overcome challenges," said Jaishankar in an exclusive with *The New Indian Express*. Excerpts:

How would you define India-China relationship with Beijing's continued aggression on our eastern borders and now in the Indian Ocean?
India-China relationship is very tense and it could turn into a dangerous situation because of the border issue. The relationship between us cannot be normal under the present circumstances. Despite 16 rounds of commander level talks between us on the Chinese disengagement along the LAC in Eastern Ladakh the issue remains unresolved. The Indian Army has been holding its ground for the past two winters, which shows our resolve on standing our ground. We have made some substantial progress in terms of the troops pulling back from places, where they were very close. There are still some places, where they have not. We have consistently maintained our position that if China disturbed peace in the border areas it will have an impact on our bilateral relationship with them.

Where does India stand in relation to its neighbourhood, which is not very comfortable presently? Has the unprecedented economic crisis in Sri Lanka, the Chinese aggression, a hostile Pakistan and an unstable Afghanistan placed India in a vulnerable situation?
India's neighbours are culturally comfortable and economically bound to us. We are a big and more resourceful country and we must reach out to them. In 2015, Prime Minister Modi told him to craft a neighbourhood policy in which India played a bigger role with a larger heart. The PM said that we are bigger and more resourceful and we must not hold back from reaching out to them. That changed how we looked at our neighbours. Earlier, there were areas where we were complacent. We didn't have enough connectivity. They (neighbours) didn't have enough resources. We should have come forward and helped. We should not let the slower party set the pace of our relationship. As an example of the PM's vision, on 'neighbourhood first,' today we are exporting and importing electricity to and from Nepal. We are the only neighbour to have helped Sri Lanka in their ongoing economic crisis for them to step forward to deal with the IMF. Similarly, with Afghanistan, we have sent back our diplomats to our Embassy there to carry forward our humanitarian measures.

Verbatim

Does our engagement in Afghanistan after August 2021 mean that we may recognize the Taliban?
India has historically maintained a relationship with people of Afghanistan. During their food crisis, we supplied them 40,000 tonnes of wheat. It was difficult because it was routed through Pakistan. We supplied Afghanistan with medical supplies and Covid vaccines. We have sent back Indian diplomats to our Embassy in Afghanistan to carry forward our humanitarian measures. The Chabahar Port remains relevant and a logistical route for our supplies to Central Asia and Afghanistan.

With Colombo granting Hambantota port access to the Chinese ballistic missile and satellite tracking ship 'Yuan Wang 5,' will the Indian Ocean become another flash point between India and China?
To call it a flashpoint will not be right. As the region gains prominence, we will see many countries getting active in the Indian Ocean trying to expand their influence. There will be crises. We need to take care of our national interests but can't claim exclusivity in the region.

What about the recent technical stopover of the French Air and Space Force contingent, including three Rafale jets at the Air Force Station, Sulur on August 10 and 11 during a long-distance deployment from metropolitan France to the Pacific Ocean? Was it a display of capability to China?
That was a routine military exercise. Such exercises have been taking place between two and more countries for a long time. There is nothing beyond, to force fit it with the activities (the Chinese ship) in the Indian Ocean.

What is the global outcome of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict? You have well-argued our need to continue with our oil purchases from Russia despite the threat of US sanctions...
As the External Affairs Minister, it's my duty to put forward our case. I'm a reasonable guy and don't like to be pushed. The Ukraine-Russia conflict has led to an energy and food crisis with rising inflation. The conflict has impacted global trade, created volatility in supply of oil, wheat, semiconductors etc. and led to investment challenges. We were affected by the lack of sunflower oil from Ukraine. But we need to work around and overcome challenges. Politically, we have maintained that the conflict should be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy.

The conflict, the US sanctions against Russia and Iran and the Chinese expansionism has led to growing insecurity and the need to belong to a block backed either by the US or Russia. Where does India stand in the current geopolitics?
The instability in the world is a challenge to national security and the Modi government is making every effort to address it. India is a $3trillion economy and the fifth largest economy in the world. We need to get over the thinking of being on one side. Any global event or partnership like the QUAD, BRICS, G20 to name some will tell you India's standing in the world and how world leaders look up to Prime Minister Modi. The global situation is delicate and the headwinds are strong. Every country has to compete in international politics. It is a natural process. No one is going to help you if you do not stand up for yourself. To think that others would defer to our sensibilities is an unrealistic expectation. We have to fight for our own interests and see how well we manage them. We have a government, which stands up for its people. There is a lot of gratitude across the world for our supply of Covid vaccines to other countries in the midst of our own vaccination programme. We are big and strong. India is a country on the move.

POWER GAMES

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Email: shahid@newindianexpress.com

Uncle judge syndrome

HC POSTINGS STUCK OVER INCLUSION OF EX SC JUDGE'S SON

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday from the ramparts of the Red Fort that nepotism has gripped top institutions of the country and this is undermining our nation's talent and potential. He should perhaps inquire as to why one of the largest High Court benches in India has not been able to send its recommendation for the appointment of judges for over nine months. Sources say that the matter is stuck due to differences among the three senior-most judges on the inclusion of a son of a former SC judge in the list. The said lawyer son does not fulfill the criteria for being recommended for a judgeship on two important counts. He is not ordinarily resident in the state from where he is sought to be made a judge. Second, he has no practice in the state concerned. But most importantly, the lawyer son of the SC judge has not attained 45 years of age. He is 43. But his father, an influential man in the system who is holding a high government office, is insisting that his son be made a judge. The chief justice of the concerned High Court is reportedly inclined to oblige the SC judge, but the next two judges are refusing to play ball. The Supreme Court has in the past withheld names on the ground of age. There have, however, been exceptions to this rule. The brother of Justice Arun Mishra was appointed a judge of the Madhya Pradesh High Court before reaching the age of forty-five. Justice Mishra was a sitting SC judge and part of the collegium at the time of the appointment. All eyes are on the High Court collegium to see if the bar would be lowered by uncle judges for the SC judge's son.

Parting Shots

BJP KNEW ABOUT NITISH'S MOVE; TRIED TO CHECKMATE HIM

The BJP learnt about Nitish Kumar's decision to switch sides a few days before the decision was announced. JD(U) leaders said that immediately after getting a whiff of Nitish's plan, Bihar Assembly Speaker Vijay Kumar Singh, who belongs to the BJP, convened a meeting of the ethics committee of the state legislature. The committee was headed by former minister and BJP member Ram Narayan Mandal. The plan, according to JD(U) sources, was to disqualify about three dozen RJD MLAs in an old case of attempt to assault the Speaker in his chamber. The idea behind the move was to deprive the Mahagathbandhan of a majority in the House. JD(U) leaders said that BJP leaders were also working on a large number of MLAs of the RJD and JD(U) to win them over to support a BJP-led government in the state. Some RJD MLAs recorded calls with BJP leaders in which BJP leaders are heard asking them to switch sides. These calls were shared by the RJD MLAs with Lalu Yadav and Tejashwi Yadav who in turn shared the recordings with Nitish Kumar. JD(U) leaders said the frenzied efforts by the BJP to wean away JD(U) and RJD MLAs and the Speaker's move to convene the ethics committee to disqualify the militantly loyalist RJD MLAs removed any doubts that Nitish Kumar might have had about the BJP's design. What followed, as they say, is history.

Kissa kursi ka

RS DY CHIEF HARIVANSH'S FATE HANGS IN THE BALANCE

Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh's decision not to accept the invite by JD(U) president Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh to attend the meeting of party MPs and MLAs, where the decision was taken to break alliance with the BJP, has not gone down well with the party brass. Harivansh is a former journalist who was sent to the Rajya Sabha by Nitish Kumar. He was later elevated to the position of Deputy Chairman of the House by the ruling NDA on the advice of Nitish. In the run-up to the recent Bihar breakup, the JD(U) had called a meeting of its MPs and MLAs. The JDU) president had personally invited Harivansh for the meeting. But Harivansh refused to attend saying it would not be proper for a man in his position to attend a party meeting. Miffed with his decision, the JD(U) president announced at a press conference at Patna that Nitish Kumar was wrongly advised by four persons to break alliance with the Mahagathbandhan in 2017 and join hands with the BJP. He said Harivansh was one of the four persons. The other prominent person who had advised Nitish to switch partners in 2017 was former Union minister RCP Singh, who was so close to Nitish at one point of time that he was elevated to the position of party president. RCP Singh has since been shown the door by the party. Lalan Singh said RCP Singh was working with the BJP while being part of the JD(U). Similar doubts are now being expressed about Harivansh. There is a strong demand for action against him. Party leaders say that options before them are limited but the chief minister has been asked to take a call on the friends of BJP in the party and action is likely against them.

GLOBAL CONGRATULATIONS

Biden, Putin, Johnson and other world leaders greet India on I-Day

YESHI SELI @New Delhi

LEADERS from across the globe sent congratulatory messages on the 75 years of India's Independence.

United Kingdom's Prime Minister Boris Johnson, while sending out his congratulatory message on India's 75th Independence Day, said that there was a thriving living bridge between India and UK.

"Congratulations to the people of India on 75 years of Independence. During my recent visit to Gujarat and New Delhi I saw for myself the thriving living bridge between our countries. I look forward to seeing these bonds go from strength to strength in the next 75 years," said Johnson.

"Please, accept warmest congratulations on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of India's independence," Russian Federation's President Vladimir Putin said in a statement.

In the statement addressed to President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Putin highlighted India's importance in the world, saying, "Over the decades of independent development, your country has achieved universally recognised success in the economic, social, scientific, technical and other fields. India rightfully enjoys considerable prestige on the world stage and plays an important constructive role in resolving pressing issues on the international agenda."

US President Joe Biden too extended his greetings to India. He also said that the US and India also celebrate the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations this year and the two democracies will continue to stand together to defend the rules-based order, advance a free and open Indo-Pacific and address the challenges that the world is facing.

"As people around the world, including 4 million proud Indian Americans celebrate the 75th Anniversary of India's Independence, the US joins the people of India to honour its democratic journey," Biden added. Meanwhile, French President Macron took to Twitter to congratulate Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the people of India on the occasion. "Dear friend Narendra Modi, dear people of India, congratulations on your Independence Day! As you proudly celebrate India's stunning achievements in the past 75 years, you can count on France to always stand by your side," Macron tweeted.

Collegium clears 37 judges for HC on eve of I-Day

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR
@ New Delhi

THE Ministry of Law and Justice late on Monday issued the notification of appointment of 37 new high court judges made by the Supreme Court Collegium system late on Sunday evening in continuation of the appointment of 26 high court Judges in Allahabad, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Guwahati high courts on Friday. According to an official statement of the Ministry of Law and Justice, so far 138 appointments in various high courts of the country have been made compared to earlier record of 126 high court appointments, which were made in 2016. In 2021, the appointments tally in the high court was 120 in addition to the nine appointments, made in the Supreme Court.

Among the Sunday's 38 High Court judge appointments, 11 appointments have been made in the High Court of Punjab and Haryana. Those appointed as High Court Judges in Punjab and Haryana are Nidhi Gupta, Sanjay Vashisth, Tribhuvan Dahiya, Namit Kumar, Harkesh Manuja, Aman Chaudhary, Naresh Singh, Harsh Bunger, Jagmohan Bansal, Deepak Manchanda and Alok Jain.

The official communication claimed that appointment process in higher judiciary has been put on fast track.

These appointments of High Court judges have been made at a time when 59,55,907 cases are pending in the High Courts of various states, as per the government's recent reply made in the Upper House of Parliament. Besides all this, the available government record says that appointments of 769 new judges and 619 additional judges have been made in various High Courts between 2014 and 2022. The government also claims to have increased the sanctioned strength of judges in the high courts from 906 in 2014 to 1,108 now.

NEW JUDGES AT HIGH COURTS

HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA
- Nidhi Gupta
- Sanjay Vashisth
- Tribhuvan Dahiya
- Namit Kumar
- Harkesh Manuja
- Aman Chaudhary
- Naresh Singh
- Harsh Bunger
- Jagmohan Bansal
- Deepak Manchanda
- Alok Jain

HIGH COURT OF ALLAHABAD
- Renu Agarwal
- Mohd Azhar Husain Idrisi
- Ram Manohar Narayan Mishra
- Jyotsna Sharma
- Mayank Kumar Jain
- Shiv Shanker Prasad
- Gajendra Kumar
- Surendra Singh-I
- Nalin Kumar Srivastava

HIGH COURT OF TELANGANA
- Chada Vijaya Bhaskar Redd

JUDGES OF THE ORISSA HIGH COURT
- Gourishankar Satapathy
- Chittaranjan Dash

KARNATAKA HIGH COURT
- Anil Bheemsen Katti
- Gurusiddaiah Basavaraja
- Chandrashekhar Mrutyunjaya Joshi
- Umesh Manjunathbhat Adiga
- Talkad Girigowda Shivashankare Gowd

HIGH COURT OF ALLAHABAD
- Renu Agarwal
- Mohd Azhar Husain Idrisi
- Ram Manohar Narayan Mishra
- Jyotsna Sharma
- Mayank Kumar Jain
- Gajendra Kumar
- Surendra Singh-I
- Nalin Kumar Srivastava
- Shiv Shanker Prasad

ANDHRA PRADESH HIGH COURT
- Adusumalli Venkata Ravindra Babu
- Vakkalagadda Radha Krishna Krupa Sagar
- Bandaru Syamsunder
- Vutukuru Srinivas
- Boppana Varaha Lakshmi Narasimha Chakravarthi
- Tallapragada Mallikarjuna Rao
- Duppala Venkata Ramana

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav: Navy hoists flags in 6 continents in 6 time zones

MAYANK SINGH @New Delhi

THE Indian Navy planned to celebrate the culmination of the diamond jubilee celebration of India's 75 years of Independence by marking its presence across the globe. On Monday the warships of the force touched three oceans, six continents falling in six different time zones and hoisted the Indian tri-colour.

The Indian Navy Ship (INS) *Tarangini* was in Europe and sailed through the River Thames in London with people of Indian origin lined up on the river bank.

Similarly, in Asia, *INS Chennai* and *INS Betwa* were in Muscat in Oman and *INS Saryu* visited Singapore. In Africa, *INS Trikand* visited Mombasa, Kenya. *INS Sumedha* visited Perth in Australia. *INS Satpura* was in San Diego, USA in North America and in South America, *INS Tarkash* visited Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

A year later, SC set to hear Pegasus snooping case

PREETHA NAIR @New Delhi

A year after the Israeli spyware Pegasus scam, the Supreme Court is set to hear the case, which involves the alleged snooping on politicians, journalists, human rights activists and others in the country.

According to reports, the SC will soon hear a much-awaited report submitted by an expert committee, which was overseen by retired Justice RV Raveendran. The committee was appointed by a three-judge bench, headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana, on October 27, 2021, to probe the snooping.

In July last year a global media consortium made the disclosure that thousands of prominent personalities from India and other countries were potentially targeted by Pegasus, owned by Israeli company NSO Group. The issue assumed political significance after NSO Group maintained that it sells products only to government intelligence and law enforcement agencies.

Some of the alleged targets include Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and his close aides, TMC leader Abhishek Banerjee and poll strategist Prashant Kishor, among many others. Though the SC-appointed committee hasn't published its final report in the public domain, according to some media reports, the panel hasn't found any evidence that Pegasus was used to snoop on the phones it probed. The only detail available is that in April 2022, the committee wrote to all state DGPs about whether they bought the spyware from the NSO.

J Gopikrishnan, a journalist who figured in the list of potential targets, said that even if the panel finds no evidence of spyware on phones, the government has to come out clean on whether it bought the Israeli spyware or not.

Jagadeep Chhokar from ADR, whose name also figured in the list, said that the case is more of a Constitutional issue than a technical one. "It violates my fundamental right to privacy. The onus is on the government to prove that no violation has taken place," he said.

CHEETAHS CLEARED

The cheetahs, the potential candidates for the transfer to Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park, have undergone the first health examination conducted by a team of international experts in Namibia

2 TEENS DROWN WHILE CROSSING RIVER IN KULLU, SHIMLA

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	33	27	Mumbai	29	26
Bhopal	26	23	Panaji	30	25
Jaipur	27	24	Patna	35	28
Amritsar	33	27	Lucknow	33	27
Chennai	34	27	Port Blair	30	26
Kolkata	33	27	Imphal	29	21
Srinagar	26	19	Chandigarh	35	27

Ready to swap some depts with Shinde camp: BJP

Fadnavis announces move following uproar in Shinde camp over portfolio allocation

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @Mumbai

AMID charges of BJP getting plum ministries, the party on Monday said that it was ready to swap some of the portfolios with loyalists of Maharashtra chief minister Eknath Shinde.

The BJP got three major portfolios – home, finance and revenue. The annual budgets of the departments of the BJP ministers are much higher than the Shinde loyalists.

If the Shinde camp ministers are unhappy with their portfolios, the BJP is ready to swap some of the ministries, said Maharashtra deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis. "This is the Shiv Sena and the BJP government, so we have to iron out our differences through discussions. The allocations have been done through consultations. If anyone still has an issue with a given ministry, then we will swap it. It is the normal practice," Fadnavis said.

Some of the Shinde camp ministers had expressed their displeasure over allocation of portfolio. Dada Bhuse, who was agriculture minister in the previous Uddhav Thackeray government, got the port and mining ministry, Gulabrao Patil, former water supply and sanitation minister, retained the same portfolio, while Deepak Kesar, who was expecting the environment and tourism ministry, but was given school education ministry.

Meanwhile, BJP minister Girish Mahajan said, "If there is displeasure, then both the party leaders will sit together and resolve the issue."

Sources said that state's Chief Minister Shinde has told his ministers that they should not express their displeasure over allocation of ministries. "CM Eknath Shinde told me that the BJP is giving him full support. If there are any issues with ministries, then people should talk to him, not to the media. We have to work as a team," said a person, privy to this development.

Minister makes U-turn on Vande Mataram

Maharashtra Cultural Affairs Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar took a U-turn on Monday over the use of 'Vande Mataram' as a greeting word by state government employees. He said that he has not made it mandatory for people to say 'Vande Mataram', but people who are using the greeting 'hello' over the phone should henceforth use 'Vande Mataram'. Meanwhile, opposition parties slammed Mungantiwar, alleging that he is against "Marathis and Marathi word Namaskar" that has been traditionally used to greet people in the state.

Kashmir erupts in Tiranga fervour

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

THE first-ever Tiranga rally with massive participation of locals led by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha set the tone for celebration of Independence Day in Kashmir. For the first-time in over three decades of militancy, the well-attended gatherings were held on I-Day functions across the Valley and city centre Ghanta Ghar, which used to be hub of separatist activities till Article 370 revocation, remained abuzz with unfurling of tri-colour and Dal Lake came to light with display of 7,500 sqft tricolor.

Sinha, who took over as second Lt Governor of J&K UT on August 7, 2020, led a Tiranga Rally on Boulevard Road on the banks of Dal Lake in Srinagar on Sunday. Hundreds of people participated in the Tiranga rally, which was taken out from Lalit Ghat to Botanical Garden to celebrate the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' Utsav. "It's a new dawn of hopes and dreams in J&K," Sinha said.

Sinha on Monday unfurled tri-colour at Sheri Kashmir Cricket Stadium in Srinagar and took salute on the march past. Unlike previous years, this year the attendance was very thick and even students from different educational institutions participated and watched the Independence-Day function enthusiastically.

J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha joins an Independence Day rally in Srinagar on Monday | EXPRESS

Addressing the people after unfurling tricolor, Sinha said, "A final blow is being dealt to the terror ecosystem operating at behest of the neighboring country. We will push the last nail in the coffin of terrorism."

"Strike, stone pelting and protests have become things of the past," he said, adding a befitting reply is being given to those who are trying to mislead youth with a nefarious proxy war. The Ghanta Ghar, which in the past had remained hub of separatist activities, remained abuzz with activities with different groups visiting to unfurl tricolor and sing the national anthem.

A man from Ahmedabad Arun Haryani, who had painted his body and face with tricolor and had tattoos on forehead and back, unfurled tricolor at Ghanta Ghar. "The tattoo on my forehead which reads India is permanent," he said, adding, "I have come here to encourage and support the Indian army. I got love and support from locals and tourists."

Three women corporators, including sarpanch, also hoisted the tri-colour at the Ghanta Ghar amid chanting of patriotic songs.

The mediamen had a busy day in the city centre as groups of people including tourists kept on reaching their to unfurl tri-colour to display their patriotism.

In the evening, a 7,500 sqft tricolor that had travelled from Sikkim to Antarctica, was displayed at Lal Chowk by CRPF in collaboration with Group Captain Jai Kishan, Principal, Himalaya Mountaineering Institute (HMI). Few hours earlier, a 7500 sq feet Indian flag was also displayed at SKICC on the bank of Dal Lake in Srinagar jointly by Union Ministry of Tourism, Institute of Hotel Management Srinagar, and HMI, Darjeeling.

Both the 7500 sq ft and 750 sq ft flags had been displayed by HMI in Sikkim Himalayas in April 2021 and subsequently, at Victoria Memorial, Kolkata on 15th Aug2021 and Statue of Unity, Gujarat on 31 Oct 2021.

Not only in Srinagar, but there was good participation of people in the I-Day functions across the Valley. Every government department held a function to mark the day. Besides, the I-Day functions were also held in educational institutions.

The government had made it mandatory for the employees to attend the I-Day functions.

> **A final blow is being dealt to the terror ecosystem operating at behest of the neighboring country. We will push the last nail in the coffin of terrorism** — Manoj Sinha, J&K Lieutenant Governor

RANCHI DIARY

MUKESH RANJAN
Our correspondent in Jharkhand
mukesh.r@newindianexpress.com

New faces likely in Jharkhand cabinet

Amid the row over the alleged conspiracy to topple the state government in Jharkhand, a major cabinet reshuffle is likely to take place among Congress legislators after August 15 – giving chance to the new faces. Congress MLAs have been demanding removal of the four ministers from the Congress quota since long alleging that they are being sidelined by the state ministers who are not even ready to meet them. According to the disgruntled Congress MLAs, the 4 ministers from the Congress quota have failed to perform, and hence, young leaders must be given a chance.

ECI concludes hearing on case against Soren

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Friday concluded the hearing of the case related to office of the profit against Chief Minister Hemant Soren and the judgment is likely come any time after August 18. Soren sought some time from the ECI to make a written submission latest by August 18. The BJP, which is the petitioner in the case countered the argument that obtaining the lease of a stone mine doesn't attract Section 9 A of the People's Representation Act 1951. ECI had issued a notice following complaints filed by former Jharkhand CM and BJP leader Raghubar Das.

IIT ISM Dhanbad to douse Jharia fire

IIT (ISM) has taken up the challenge of dousing the 106-years-old underground fire in Jharia coal mines. According to IIT (ISM) officials, the Central Mining Planning and Design Institute Limited (CMPDIL) and Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) have assigned the project to IIT ISM for dousing the underground fire in Jharia mines. According to BCCL, at present, the fire has been reduced to under 9 square km at 95 spots; while at the time of nationalisation of coal mines in 1973, the fire was spotted spread over 17.32 square km. Underground fire in Jharia mines was spotted first in 1916.

All 11 Bilkis Bano rape convicts walk out of jail

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA
@ Ahmedabad

ALL the 11 convicts serving life sentence for the Bilks Bano gang-rape case in 2002 during the Gujarat riots case, walked free from the Godhra sub-jail on Monday after the Gujarat government allowed their release under its remission policy.

A special CBI court in Mumbai had on January 21, 2008 sentenced the 11 accused to life imprisonment. Later, their conviction was upheld by the Bombay High Court. The convicts had served more than 15 years in jail. Citing this reason, one of them approached the Supreme Court praying for an early release. The apex court directed the Gujarat government to look into the issue of remission of his sentence, following which the government formed a committee.

Panchmahals Collector Sujal Mayatra, who headed the panel, said the committee took a unanimous decision in favour of remission of all the 11 convicts in the case. The 11 released convicts are Jaswant Nai, Govind Nai, Shailesh Bhatt, Radhyesham Bhagwan Das Shah, Bipin Chandra Joshi, Kesarbhai Vohania, Pradeep Mordhiya, Bakabhai Vohania, Rajubhai Soni, Mitesh Bhatt and Ramesh Chandana.

Timeline of Bilkis Bano case

In the 2002 mob violence in Gujarat, Bilkis Bano was gangraped and her familiy members were killed. Her case went to court and accused were jailed after a trial:

03.03.2002
BILKIS BANO FAMILY WAS ATTACKED BY A MOB AT RANDHIKPUR VILLAGE NEAR AHMEDABAD; BILKIS, FIVE MONTHS PREGNANT, WAS GANG-RAPED; HER KIN KILLED

March 4, 2002: First FIR was filed in Limkheda police station in Dahod district; Names of the rapists included in the FIR

March 25, 2003: A summary report was filed and accepted by the Limkheda judicial magistrate; Limkheda judicial magistrate effectively closed the case citing in consensus as a reason

April 2003: Bilkis approached NHRC which asks Harish Salve to represent her in SC

April 2003: Bilkis approached SC seeking quashing of the summary report of Limkheda magistrate, a CBI investigation against Gujarat police officers and compensation

October 25, 2003: SC asked Gujarat government to stop the state CID investigation

December 18, 2003: SC handed over the case to CBI

January 2004: CBI arrested 12 accused

February 11, 2004: CBI filed an interim report highlighting complicity of Gujarat police

April 9 2004, CBI filed chargesheet against 20 people, including 6 police officers and two govt doctors

May 12, 2004: CBI filed final reports mentioning gross violation and complicity of Gujarat cops

July 2004: Bilkis filed petition to transfer the case outside Gujarat

August 2004: The case transferred to special CBI court in Mumbai

January 13, 2005: Charges were framed

February 20, 2005: Bilkis identified 12 accused; The trial initially began in Ahmedabad

January 21, 2008: A special court convicted 11 men and sentenced them to life imprisonment for raping Bilkis and murdering seven of her family members, while acquitting seven, including cops and doctors

May 4, 2017: The HC convicted 7 people — 5 policemen and 2 doctors — under charges of not performing their duties and tampering of evidence.

July 10, 2017: SC dismissed appeals of two doctors and four policemen against conviction

April 2019: SC directed Gujarat government to give Rs 50 lakh, a job and accommodation to Bilkis

October 2020: Bilkis again approached SC and said she was not satisfied with compliance of the apex court order with regard to the job offer and provision for accommodation made by the state government. The SC asked Bano to approach authorities with her grievances

Mondal arrest: Bengal BJP told to raise graft cases to corner Mamata

PRONAB MONDAL @ Kolkata

A day after Mamata Banerjee opposed TMC strongman Anubrata Mondal's arrest by the CBI, BJP's central leadership on Monday directed the party's Bengal unit to use the West Bengal CM's stance on alleged corruption.

Banerjee's claim that TMC is a symbol of honesty is nothing other than to hoodwink common people, said sources in the party. The saffron camp has been asked to raise the issue in the same spirit that Mamata showed as a firebrand opposition leader during Left Front regime.

While asking for reaching out the young educated class of electorates on the issue of alleged recruitment scam in schools in which former minister Partha Chatterjee was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), the saffron camp's national leadership instructed to raise the issue of Mamata's support for Mondal, who is in CBI's custody on the charges of cattle smuggling, and carry out largescale movement in grass-root level.

Lambasting the BJP on the issue of using central agencies, Mamata on Sunday asked why Mondal was arrested and alleged the CBI went on a rampage at his house. When the TMC preferred to maintain distance with Chatterjee by suspending her, Mamata's statement made it clear that the party is beside Mondal. The instructions came three months after Union Home minister Amit Shah, in a meeting with party functionaries in Kolkata, advised to draw inspiration from Mamata's indefatigable fighting spirit as she laboured hard for two-and-a-half decades to end 34 years of Left front regime. When the BJP leaders, citing TMC's atrocities, pressed for president's rule in Bengal, Shah had made it clear that there were no short cuts to power in West Bengal as it would come through hard work just the way Mamata had performed when she was in opposition.

"The party reminded Shah's roadmap. We have been told that arrests of TMC strongman and former minister are the most prominent issues since the BJP made deep inroads in Bengal. The high-command clearly instructed us to go all out and carry out mass movement on these issues," said a senior BJP leader. State BJP president Sukanta Majumdar said Mamata's statement supporting Mondal would help the party to portray the Bengal CM is not all the face of honesty.

Punjab likely to bring CADA Act to check drug menace, trafficking

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

CONTINUING to reel in the impact of unabated drug abuse and trafficking, the Punjab government is mulling introducing a new comprehensive legislation that will lay stress on early detection of addictive tendencies and consequent timely cure, making glorification of drugs and violence punishable and proposing community service mandatory for convicts involved in minor crimes.

The proposed legislation, Comprehensive Action Against Drug Abuse Act (CADA), will be the basis for planning and implementing efforts to control drug abuse in a state driven by trafficking and consumption. The legislation, proposed by the Punjab Special Task Force (STF) on Drugs, emphasises that efforts should be made to encourage community service for all section of society. This would, according to the proposed legislation, promote community mobilisation and enhance the impact of programmes under the Comprehensive Action Against Drug Abuse Strategy.

Besides, the legislation would go a long way in betterment of society, improve civic amenities, cleanliness and generally raise the quality of life. "A person sentenced to community service under this Act shall enter into a bond with the state government where the conditions for community service will be specified. If a person does not observe these conditions he may face imprisonment. The community service shall be of such a nature that it benefits the community," the proposed Act reads.

Also, a panel will be constituted to monitor those sentenced to community service.

A person or good Samaritan who provides help and assistance to a victim of drug overdose will not be liable for the outcome or effect of any such act done in good faith, the proposed legislation clarifies.

Government employees found to be involved in drug trafficking shall be considered to have committed the gravest misconduct, according to the proposed legislation. Officials who reveal the identity of informers will face prison sentence of three years.

Once passed, the legislation will provide a legal framework for the enforcement and prevention programmes for drug abuse. It will also cover the treatment and prevention aspects of alcohol and tobacco abuse-related disorders. Eeach district will have a mission team for the implementation.

Community service mandate

The legislation, proposed by the Punjab Special Task Force (STF) on Drugs, emphasises that efforts should be made to encourage community service for all section of society

Nitish to induct new ministers today, RJD may get speaker post

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

BIHAR Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is set to expand his cabinet on Tuesday a week after he was sworn-in as chief minister of the Mahagathbandhan government.

The list of the probable ministers was submitted to Raj Bhavan late Monday following a meeting of deputy chief minister Tejashwi Prasad Yadav and Congress in-charge Bhakt Charan Das with Nitish. Earlier, Tejashwi and Das reached 1 Anne Marg, official residence of the CM with the list of probable ministers from their respective parties. It has been agreed that the new Speaker will be from the RJD.

Sources said that there would be 17 ministers from the RJD, 12 from the JD(U), three from the Congress, one each from the HAM and Left parties. However, only two ministers from the Congress will take oath on Tuesday.

Earlier in the day, a video went viral wherein party workers were seen protesting against Das. The incident took place soon after Das revealed that the Congress would be getting three ministerial berths in the Mahagathbandhan government – two now and one later. However, the agitating workers were pacified by senior leaders.

Later talking to mediapersons, Das said that two Congress MLAs would take oath as ministers on August 16 and one more legislator would be inducted into the Nitish government in the next cabinet expansion.

Nitish and Tejashwi had taken oath as CM and deputy CM on August 10, a day after the JD(U) snapped ties with the BJP-led NDA and joined hands with the RJD, Congress and other parties.

41 killed in fire at a Coptic Church in Egypt's Cairo on Monday

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • SW: Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	36	21	TDS	Los Angeles	32	19	LC
Colombo	29	26	LC	Melbourne	13	10	HR
Dhaka	33	27	TDS	Moscow	29	18	HR
Dubai	39	32	SNY	New York	27	20	LC
Houston	35	25	SNY	Singapore	31	26	TDS
Istanbul	28	23	LC	Toronto	25	18	LC
London	29	18	LC	Washington	22	18	LC

Suu Kyi given additional six years in prison

Latest sentence on corruption charges takes the Nobel laureate's total jail time to 17 years

YANGON

A Myanmar junta court jailed Aung San Suu Kyi for six years for corruption on Monday, a source close to the case said, taking the ousted leader's prison time to 17 years.

Suu Kyi, 77, has been detained since the generals toppled her government in a coup on February 1 last year, ending the Southeast Asian country's brief period of democracy.

She has since been hit with a series of charges, including violating the official secrets act, corruption and electoral fraud. She faces decades in jail if convicted on all counts.

Suu Kyi was sentenced to "six years imprisonment under four anti-corruption charges", said the source, who requested anonymity because they were not authorised to speak to the media. Each charge carried a maximum of 15 years in jail. Suu Kyi was sentenced to three years for each, but three of the sentences would be served concurrently, the source said.

She appeared in good health and did not make any statement following the sentencing, they added.

The Nobel laureate had already been sentenced to 11 years in jail for corruption, incitement against the military, breaching Covid-19 rules and breaking a telecommunications law.

Journalists have been barred from attending the court hearings and Suu Kyi's lawyers have been banned from speaking to the media.

Aung Sang Suu Kyi

The United States slammed the latest sentencing as an "affront to justice and the rule of law". "We call on the regime to immediately release Aung San Suu Kyi and all those unjustly detained, including other democratically elected officials," a State Department spokesperson said.

The coup sparked widespread protests and unrest, and renewed fighting with established ethnic rebel groups.

Dozens of "People's Defence Forces" have also sprung up to fight the junta and have surprised the military with their effectiveness, analysts say.

According to a local monitoring group, the crackdown has left more than 2,000 civilians dead.

Suu Kyi has been the face of Myanmar's democratic hopes for more than 30 years, but her earlier 11-year sentence already meant she was likely to miss elections the junta says it plans to hold by next year. *AFP*

WORLD LAUDS INDIA'S ACHIEVEMENTS ON 75th INDEPENDENCE DAY

During my recent visit to Gujarat and New Delhi, I saw for myself the thriving Living Bridge between our two countries. I look forward to seeing these bonds go from strength to strength over the next 75 years

Boris Johnson, UK Prime Minister

My heartfelt congratulations to Prime Minister @narendramodi & the people of India for completing 75 years of Independence! Germany is proud to be India's friend & strong partner for a sustainable future

Olaf Scholz, German Chancellor

Dear friend @NarendraModi, dear people of India, congratulations on your Independence Day! As you proudly celebrate India's stunning achievements in the past 75 years, you can count on France to always stand by your side

Emmanuel Macron, French president

All Australians applaud India's successes and the many achievements that define this great country and its people

Anthony Albanese, Australian Prime Minister

BIDEN'S MESSAGE

The US joins India to honour its democratic journey, guided by Mahatma Gandhi's message of truth & non-violence," Joe Biden said in a statement

BOSTON MARKS FIRST-EVER INDIA DAY PARADE

A 220-feet US-India flag flying high in the sky over Boston attracted everyone's attention during the first-ever India Day Parade to mark the 75th anniversary of the country's independence in the historic American city

Marked by bands of veterans, scores of floats reflecting the diversity of both India and the United States, amidst a patriotic flavor and songs, the Indian Day Parade was attended by thousands of people from more than 30 countries

MOUNTAINEER TAKES TRICOLOUR TO EUROPE'S HIGHEST PEAK

Indian mountaineer **Bhawna Dehariya** on Monday unfurled the tricolour on Mount Elbrus, the highest peak in Europe, to mark India's 76th Independence Day

Dehariya, 30, from Chhindwara district of Madhya Pradesh, timed her expedition to hit the peak just in time to celebrate *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav* with the tricolour

"I hoisted the tricolour with grandeur at the peak of Mount Elbrus West, which is 5,642 metres high above the sea level," said the proud mountaineer

EXPRESS READ

50 extremists flee to Af minutes before Pak raid

Peshawar: Around 50 armed extremists belonging to the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan fled to Afghanistan before security forces and police launched a counter-terrorism operation in Swat district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa of Pakistan, locals said. The armed militants along with their luggage left for Afghanistan via Dir district, the local people said late on Sunday.

Sharif will return to Pak next month: Minister

Islamabad: Federal minister from Pakistan's ruling PML-N on Monday announced that deposed prime minister Nawaz Sharif will return to the country from London next month, ending a three-year long exile. "Sharif will return to Pakistan in September. Upon his return, the PML-N will not let him to go to jail," Federal Minister Mian Javed Latif said.

CHINA BEGINS FRESH DRILLS AROUND TAIWAN

TAIPEI

CHINA staged fresh military drills around Taiwan on Monday, slamming a new visit by United States lawmakers to the island days after a similar trip by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi triggered a furious response from Beijing.

The unannounced two-day trip by senior members of Congress prompted China to renew its rhetoric that it would "prepare for war" over Taiwan, a self-ruled democracy that Beijing's leaders claim and have vowed to one day seize.

Tsai told the lawmakers she wants "to maintain a stable status quo across the Taiwan Strait" and "jointly maintain the prosperity and stability of the Indo-Pacific region", her office said in a statement.

She said Russia's invasion of Ukraine demonstrated "the threat that authoritarian states pose to the world order", according to her office, and also thanked Washington for its support in the face of Chinese military threats. The bipartisan trip sparked another bellicose response from Beijing, which said it had carried out a fresh round of "combat readiness patrol and combat drills in the sea and airspace around Taiwan island" on Monday.

"The Chinese People's Liberation Army continues to train and prepare for war, resolutely defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and resolutely crush any form of 'Taiwan independence' separatism," Wu Qian, a spokesman for China's defense ministry, said.

"We warn the US and the DPP authorities: 'Using Taiwan to contain China' is doomed to failure," he added, referring to Taiwan's ruling Democratic Progressive Party.

In a defiant response, Taiwan's defence ministry vowed to face the latest drills "calmly and seriously and defend national security." "Apart from expressing condemnation (of China's drills), the Ministry of National Defence will comprehensively grasp the movements in the sea and airspace around the Taiwan Strait," the ministry said.

It added that its forces had detected 30 Chinese planes and five ships operating around the strait on Monday.

Of those, 15 planes crossed the median line — an unofficial demarcation that Beijing does not recognise. *AFP*

Authorities in Iran incited violence against Rushdie: US

WASHINGTON

ASSERTING that Salman Rushdie has consistently stood up for the universal rights of freedom of expression, freedom of religion and freedom of the press, US Secretary of State Tony Blinken on Sunday said Iranian state institutions have incited violence against the Indian-origin author for generations and state-affiliated media recently gloated about an attempt on his life.

Rushdie, 75, was stabbed by a 24-year-old New Jersey resident at a literary event in New York on Friday in what US authorities described as a "targeted, preplanned" attack. He is "pulling through" and has his "feisty and defiant" sense of humour intact despite battling severe, life-changing injuries, his son and former wife Padma Lakshmi said on Sunday.

"We join those across the country and around the world who are keeping Salman Rushdie in our thoughts in the aftermath of this heinous attack," Blinken said in a statement. "More than a literary giant, Rushdie has consistently stood up for the universal rights of freedom of expression, freedom of religion or belief, and freedom of the press. While law enforcement officials continue to investigate the attack, I am reminded of the pernicious forces that seek to undermine these rights, including through hate speech and incitement."

"Specifically, Iranian state institutions have incited violence against Rushdie for generations, and state-affiliated media recently gloated about the attempt on his life. This is despicable," he added. *AFP*

Kyiv hits Russian mercenary group HQ, destroys building

KYIV

UKRAINIAN forces on Monday struck the local headquarters of Russia's private paramilitary force, the Wagner Group, in Luhansk region, completely destroying the building.

The attack came hours after a pro-Kremlin Russian journalist unwittingly exposed the building's location through a post on Telegram.

Meanwhile, at least three Ukrainian civilians have been killed and 20 others wounded in the latest artillery barrages from the Russian military, Ukrainian officials said Monday.

Regional officials said at least three people died and another 13 were wounded by Russian shelling that hit numerous towns and villages in the Donetsk region. In the country's second-largest city of Kharkiv, seven civilians were wounded in the latest Russian shelling that hit residential buildings and an area near a bus stop early Monday.

GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Tender Notice No.05/2022-23/SE(P-III)/EE(PD-IV)/DB/ Dt:13-08-2022

1.Number of Works	:	03 (Three)
2.Value of works (ECV)	:	Rs.159.28 Lakhs
3.Down loading Starting Date	:	13-08-2022 @ 10.00 PM
4.Down loading End Date	:	29-08-2022 @ 3.00 PM
5.Last date for Submission of bid	:	29-08-2022 @ 5.00 PM

Note: Further details at http://www.apeprocurement.gov.in

O/o the Executive Engineer (PD-IV) Division — For Commissioner GVMC

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE CITY CIVIL JUDGE MAYO HALL AT BANGALORE (CCH-58) P & SC NO : 25055/2022

BETWEEN:

1. **SNEHA BALARAJ W/o Srinivasa j r,** Aged about 45 years, R/a ,#14,2nd main, 4th cross, Subbanna Garden, Vijayanagar behind Ayyappaswamy Temple, Bangalore north, Bangalore-560040 (REP. BY GPA HOLDER NAMRATHA.B)
2. **ASHWINI .B W/o Anil kumara A,** Aged about 44 years, R/a # 1572 K T streets lashkar mohalla Mysore ,Karnataka 57000 (REP. BY GPA HOLDER NAMRATHA.B)
3. **NAMRATHA B W/o Pawan. P,** Aged about 41 years, R/a # 69, 2nd main road, 3rd Stage, 3rd block, Bangalore North, Basaveshwaranagar Bangalore, Karnataka - 560079. PETITIONERS

AND

NIL RESPONDENTS

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the Petitioner above named has filed Petition under section 372 of the Indian Succession Act 1925 for grant of Succession Certificate to inherit their Parent's deposits from the Bank. And they are residing in the above said addresses with their family and it is further submit that the petitioners are the sisters and the children of Late Balaraj. J. V (father) and Late S. Hemavathi (mother) The petitioners submits that late S. Hemavathi, W/o late Balaraj J.V, ordinarily resided at the time of her death at No. 69, 2nd Main, 3rd Stage, 3rd Phase, Basaveshwara Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 079, within the local limits of this Hon'ble Court. The petitioners submits that late S. Hemavathi, W/o late Balaraj J.V during her lifetime has deposited money and fixed amount in her savings account in bank and post office under senior citizens savings scheme and the deposits involved therein.

Interested Parties are directed to appear in the Court i.e before the Hon'ble CCH – 58, Bengaluru in person or by a pleader duly instructed on the **19th day of September 2022 at 11:00** a.m to show cause against the Petitioner filing wherein the matter will be heard and determined ex-parte.

SCHEDULE

Sl. No	Account Holder's Name	Bank Name and Branch	Scheme	Account number	Amount
1.	S. Hemavathi	Post office, Basaveshwarnagar	Senior citizens savings scheme	4608299026	15,00,000/-
2.	S. Hemavathi	Post office, Javagal S. O	Savings bank general	0405584781	Unknown
3.	S. Hemavathi	Bank of Baroda Javagal branch, Karnataka	Savings account	54010100003002	Unknown
4.	S. Hemavathi	Vijaya bank Javagal branch, Karnataka	Fixed deposit account	109501064000157	5,00,000/-
5.	S. Hemavathi	Vijaya bank Javagal Branch Karnataka	Fixed deposit account	109501064000158	5,00,000/-
6.	S. Hemavathi	Vijaya bank Javagal Branch Karnataka	Fixed deposit account	109503311002678	5,00,000/-
7.	S. Hemavathi	Vijaya bank Javagal branch Karnataka	Fixed deposit account	109503311002677	5,00,000/-

(The Amalgamation of Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank with Bank of Baroda Scheme, 2019 dated January 2, 2019, issued by Government of India)

Advocate for Petitioner
Satish G.S
No. 258, 2nd Main, 2nd Cross
Vibhuthipura, Bengaluru – 560 037.

By order of the Court.
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court,
Mayo Hall Unit, Bengaluru

BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL, BENGALURU BENCH
Corporate Bhavan, 12th Floor, Raheja Towers, M.G.Road, Bengaluru- 560 001
Ref. No. NCLTB/ Co.P No. (IB)/113/BB/2022
Apartment Buyers Consumer Association .....Financial Creditor
Vs
M/s Dreamz Infra India Limited .....Corporate Debtor

PUBLIC NOTICE TO CORPORATE DEBTOR

M/s Dreamz Infra India Limited having its office at 577/B, 2nd Floor, Outer Ring Road, Teachers Colony, Koramangala, Bengaluru- 560 034. E-mail ID- md@dreamzinfra.com. Phone No- 080-41435759.

THIS PUBLIC NOTICE IS ISSUED PURSUANT TO THE ORDER PASSED BY THE HON'BLE NCLT, BENGALURU BENCH IN CP(IB) No. 113/BB/2022 DATED 08-07-2022. IT IS HEREBY NOTIFIED AS UNDER-

That the financial creditors have filed a petition under Section 7 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 read with Rule 4 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy (Application to Adjudicating Authority) Rules, 2016 on 01.06.2022, wherein M/s Dreamz Infra India Limited is the Corporate Debtor. The petition is filed to initiate corporate insolvency resolution process with respect to Dreamz Samhita Project only. The Hon'ble NCLT, Bengaluru bench on 08-07-2022 has passed orders to issue notice. That the notice was not served for some reasons to the Corporate Debtor i.e., M/s Dreamz Infra India Limited and also to the MD i.e., Mrs. Disha Chouchary, of the Corporate Debtor. Accordingly, this public notice is hereby given to you to appear in person or through an authorised representative before the Hon'ble NCLT, Bengaluru bench on 13.09.2022 at 10.30am for hearing failing which matter will be heard and disposed in your absence.

Usha D N, Advocate
+91-9686777922

PUBLIC NOTICE

Mrs. DIKSHA SHRIVASTAVA, Aged about 27 years, W/o Mr. Roshan Singh Iqbal Singh Kande, Aadhaar No. **9428 4700 4054,** PAN No. : **FSQPS3028K** Mr. **ROSHAN SINGH IQBAL SINGH KANDE**, Aged about 30 years, S/o Mr. Iqbal Singh Kande, Aadhaar No.: **9099 9394 8134,** PAN No. : **CXWPK8524N** Residing at address - House No - 14, First Floor, Lakevista Layout, Behind RBD still waters villas, Silver County Road, Haralur, Bangalore-560102, has negotiated to purchase the schedule property from **Mr. DUSMANTA KUMAR CHOUDHURY,** Age: About 46 years, S/o Mr. Gopal Krishna Choudhury, Aadhaar No **890799554630,** PAN No. **ADRPC7906P** and **Mrs. SRILAXMI CHOUDHURY** Age: About 41 years W/o Mr. Dusmanta Kumar Choudhury, Aadhaar No.**24878875102,** PAN No **AIXPR9368K.** Permanent address at Flat No. 901, Wing A Block 2, Sun City Gloria Apartment, Sarjapur Main Road, Doddakannelli, Karmelaram Post, Next to Karmelaram Railway Track. Bangalore -560035, and Currently Both are Residing at 77 Lantana, st Macquarie Fields NSW 2564 Australia.

If anybody having objections or claims for the aforesaid schedule property may lodge their objections with the undersigned in writing with supporting documents within 07 **(Seven)** days from the date of this publication. Any objections received thereafter will not be binding on my client and If no such objections or claims are received within the said period my clients will proceed to purchase the schedule property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of residential vacant site bearing **No.22**, carved out of Sy.No.67/1 (converted vide the Order of the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District Bangalore, dated 3/9/2009 bearing No. **ALN.(EVH).SR.62/2009-10** situated at Haralur Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, in the residential layout known as **"RELIAABLE LAKEVISTA"**, with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever hereunder or underneath or above the surface,

East to West 50 feet, North to South 30 feet

In all measuring 1500 Sq. feet, with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever hereunder or underneath or above the surface, and bounded on the :- East by : Site No.43; West by : Road; North by : Site No.23; South by : Site No.21.

C. JAYANTHI, Advocate
Mobile No. 9035797090
LEGAL ADVICE WORKSTEAD
No. 764/A, 19th Main, 22nd Cross
2nd Sector HSR Layout, Bangalore-560102
Mobile No. 9035797090
Bangalore Date: 16.08.2022

IN THE HON'BLE COURT OF COMMERCIAL COURT AT BANGALORE COM O.S. No. 424 of 2020

IN THE MATTER OF:

M/s Hitek Fine Chemicals Private Limited, No. 10, First Floor, Bannerghatta Main Road, Adugodi, Near Mico Factory Bangalore, Karnataka, PIN-560030 ... **PLAINTIFF**

-V/s-

1. **M/s Clasek Fine Chemicals Private Limited,** 29/68, 16th Cross, Gopalappa Layout, Near Chowdeshwari Temple, Lakkasandra, Bengaluru, Karnataka, PIN-560030. ... **DEFENDANT-1**
2. **Mohammad Quaisar Reja,** 29/68 16th Cross, Gopalappa Layout, Near Chowdeshwari Temple, Lakkasandra, Bengaluru, Karnataka, PIN-560030. ... **DEFENDANT-2**
3. **Mohammed Noor,** S/o Hamza Ali, No. 5, 1st Cross, Lakkasandra, Adugodi, Bengaluru, Karnataka, PIN-560030. ... **DEFENDANT-3**

NOTICE DRAFT for DEFENDANT NO.3 under Order 5, Rule 20-(1A) R/W Section 151 of Civil Procedure Code

Defendant No. 3: Sri Mohammed Noor, S/o Hamza Ali, R/at No. 5 1st Cross, Lakkasandra, Adugodi, Bengaluru, Karnataka, PIN-560030.

The plaintiff filed the above petition seeking a decree of permanent injunction restrating the Defendant/s jointly and severally from infringing and passing off plaintiff trademarks.

Take notice that defendant No. 3 shall appear before the Hon'ble Court on **16-09-2022** either in person or through an advocate duly instructed to answer all the material facts failing which the matter will be heard in your absence placing ex parte.

Given under my name and the seal of this Hon'ble court on 12-08-2022.

By order of the Court, Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru.

Address of Advocate for the Plaintiff:
Gimmi Joseph K, Iprinn Associates,
No. 463,13th Cross, 10th Main, Wilson Garden, Bangalore-27. M: 9449063003

UDAYA SOUHARDA CREDIT CO-OPERATIVE LTD.
Regd. Off : "Udaya Sahakara Bhavana", # 29/11, 1st Main, Mountjoy Road, Hanumanthanagar, Bengaluru - 560 019.

POSSESSION NOTICE: APPENDIX IV [RULE 8(1)]

For Immovable Property Mortgaged To Udaya Souharda Credit Co-Operative Ltd.

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **Udaya Souharda Credit Co-operative Ltd,** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the power conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued a demand notice dated **06/04/2022** calling upon the borrower mentioned herein below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under **Sub Section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8** of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this the 08th day of AUG of the year 2022.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **Udaya Souharda Credit Co-operative Ltd,** for an amount mentioned below and interest thereon.

You are further requested to note that as per Section 13(13) of The **SARFAESI ACT,** 2002, you are RESTRAINED/PROHIBITED from disposing of or dealing with the Secured Asset, without prior written consent of **Udaya Souharda Credit Co-operative Ltd.,**

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Details Of The Loan Account : Name of the borrower: Shankrappa. K S/o Kittappa Alias Krishnappa **Date of Demand Notice Under Section 13(2) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 : 06/04/2022 Amount in Demand Notice (Rs): Rs. 2,08,14,190/-** (Rupees Two Crores Eight Lakhs Fourteen Thousand One Hundred and Ninety Only)

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
(Details of mortgaged properties of the Borrower)

Schedule -I : All the part and parcel of Residential Property bearing No. 273-F in the Layout formed by the HMT Employees Co-operative House Building Society Ltd., Bengaluru 560031 in Mathikkere Layout, Bengaluru 1st Division. The Property measuring East to West: 9.14 Mtrs., and North to South: 15.24 Mtrs., in all 139.29 Sq. Mtrs., and bounded on the **East by:** Site No. 273 E **West by:** Site No. 273 G **North by:** Road **South by:** Site No. 273 H

Place : Bengaluru
Date : 10/08/2022

Sd/- Authorized Officer
For **Udaya Souharda Credit Cooperative Ltd**

UDAYA SOUHARDA CREDIT CO-OPERATIVE LTD.
Regd. Off : "Udaya Sahakara Bhavana", # 29/11, 1st Main, Mountjoy Road, Hanumanthanagar, Bengaluru - 560 019.

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The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **Udaya Souharda Credit Co-operative Ltd**, for an amount mentioned below and interest thereon.

You are further requested to note that as per Section 13(13) of The **SARFAESI ACT,** 2002, you are RESTRAINED/PROHIBITED from disposing of or dealing with the Secured Asset, without prior written consent of **Udaya Souharda Credit Co-operative Ltd.,**

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets

Details Of The Loan Account : Name of the borrower: Mahesh C.N S/o Chandrashekar **Date of Demand Notice Under Section 13(2) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 : 06/04/2022 Amount in Demand Notice (Rs): Rs. 81,35,425/-** (Rupees Eighty-One Lakhs Thirty-Five Thousand Four Hundred and Twenty-Five Only)

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
(Details of mortgaged properties of the Borrower)

Schedule -I : All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Eastern Portion of Site No. 8/A, Khatha No. 62/4, BBMP SI No. 1157, Situated at Kothanur Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, presently comes within the limits BBMP, Bengaluru, measuring as follows: East to West:27 Feet, North to south :57 Feet in Totally Measuring 1539 Sq. Ft and bounded on: - **East by:** Private Property **West by:** Site No.8 **North by:** Road **South by:** Site No.7

Place : Bengaluru
Date : 10/08/2022

Sd/- Authorized Officer
For **Udaya Souharda Credit Cooperative Ltd**

RBL BANK LTD
Administrative Office: 1st Lane, Shahpuri, Kolhapur-416001
Branch Office: RBL BANK LTD. at Prestige Tower, Ground Floor, 99 & 100, Residency Road, Bangalore-560025

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

You the below mentioned Borrower and Co-borrower/ Guarantor have availed loan from **RBL Bank Ltd.** by mortgaging your immovable property. You the below mentioned Guarantor have stood guarantee in respect of the said loan so availed. Consequent to default committed by you all, your loan account has been classified as **Non-Performing Asset.** Assigned loan to/in favour of **RBL Bank Ltd. (Bank)** all its rights, title and interests, benefits, dues receivable from you under/in respect of the captioned loan agreement along with the underlying security interest created in respect of immovable property for repayment of the same.

Sl. No.	Name and Address of the Borrower, Co-borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	Loan Account No. and Loan Amount	Details of the Security to be Enforced	Amount Due in Rs.
1	**DR. VIQAR SYED,** D.77, Golden Enclave, Airport Road, Kodihalli, North Vimanapura, Bangalore, Karnataka-560017. **Also At: M/S. APOLO HOSPITAL INTERNATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE,** #154/11, Opp. IIM, 5th Floor, Bannerghatta Main Road, Bangalore, Karnataka-560076 **(Borrower, Mortgagor & Guarantor). DR. TABASUM SYED,** D.77, Golden Enclave, Airport Road, Kodihalli, North Vimanapura, Bangalore, Karnataka-560017 **(CO-BORROWER).**	**Loan Account No. 809001371030, Rs.3,39,93,600/-** (Rupees Three Crore Thirty Nine Lakh Ninety Three Thousand Six Hundred Only) **Loan Account No. 809002801857, Rs.15,27,000/-** (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Twenty Seven Thousand Only) **Totalling a sum of Rs.3,55,20,600/-** (Rupees Three Crore Fifty Five Lakh Twenty Thousand Six Hundred Only)	**SCHEDULE-A (HYDERABAD PROPERTY):** All that Second Floor Duplex Unit No.201, admeasuring 3011 Sq.ft. including common areas along with an undivided share of land admeasuring 100 Sq.yards, out of total area of 575.67 sq.yds in Sy.No.129/58, M.C.H No.8-2-268/2/C, Road No.3 Banjara Hills (Rear Side) Hyderabad, and **bounded by: North:** Open to Sky, **East:** Corridor, Staircase and Flat No.202, **South:** Open to Sky, **West:** Open to Sky. **SCHEDULE-B (Bangalore Property):** All that piece and parcel of the Residential Unit bearing No.F1-01, BBMP No.259, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, having built up area of 2888 Sq.ft., in the complex known as **"SKYLARK ARCADIA PHASE-II",** along with 3211 Sq.ft., undivided share, right, title, interest in the converted land bearing Sy.Nos.22/1, 23/2, 24/1 of Sadaramangala Village, Krishnarajapura Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, now under the limits of BBMP, measuring 16 Acres 09 Guntas. **The property belongs to DR. VIQAR SYED.**	**Rs. 3,95,38,961.18** (Rupees Three Crore Ninety Five Lakh Thirty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty One And Eighteen Paisa Only) With further interest and charges thereon **Demand Notice date** **08.08.2022**

The Bank has pursuant to the recovery of outstanding dues, issued **demand notice** u/s 13(2) of the Act with rule 13(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 as and by way of service upon you. Details of the Borrower, Co-borrower, Guarantor Property mortgaged, outstanding dues, **demand notice** under Section 13(2) and amount claimed there under are given as below. You the Borrower and Co-borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor are therefore called upon to make payment of the above mentioned amount due with further interest payment in full within **60 days** of this notice, failing which the undersigned shall be without any further reference constrained to take action under the said act to enforce the above mentioned security. Please note that this publication is made without prejudice to such rights and remedies as are available to **RBL Bank Ltd.** against the borrower and guarantors of the said financial under the law. You are further requested to note that as per section 13(13) of the said act, you are restrained/ prohibited from disposing of or dealing with the above security or transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise of the above secured asset, without our prior written consent.

Place: BANGALORE, Date: 12.08.2022 **Authorised officer, RBL Bank Ltd.**

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE, THE WORD ITSELF SAYS 'I'M POSSIBLE'! › AUDREY HEPBURN

QuoteExpress

UDAYA SOUHARDA CREDIT CO-OPERATIVE LTD.
Regd. Off : "Udaya Sahakara Bhavana", # 29/11, 1st Main, Mountjoy Road, Hanumanthanagar, Bengaluru - 560 019.

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The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **Udaya Souharda Credit Co-operative Ltd**, for an amount mentioned below and interest thereon.

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The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Details Of The Loan Account : Name of the borrower: Nagaraj D.M S/o Late Muniswamappa **Date of Demand Notice Under Section 13(2) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 : 06/04/2022 Amount in Demand Notice (Rs): Rs. 2,09,91,720/-** (Rupees Two Crores Nine Lakhs Ninety-One Thousand Seven Hundred and Twenty Only)

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
(Details of mortgaged properties of the Borrower)

Schedule -I : All that piece and parcel of the property along with building bearing No. 22, in Sy. No 18/1, situated at Mathikere village, Bengaluru North, measuring East to West 50.06 feet and North to South 38 feet, overall measuring 1902.28 Sq. ft, and bounded on: **East by:** HMT Road **West by:** Property of D M Balakrishna **North by:** Property of M Narayanaswamy **South by:** Property of Krishna Murthy B M

Place : Bengaluru
Date : 10/08/2022

Sd/- Authorized Officer
For **Udaya Souharda Credit Cooperative Ltd**

Your Guide to Spicy Living INDULGE Every Friday with THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

$5 trln economy India can become by 2028-29 only if the GDP grows at 9% per annum for the next 5 years, former RBI Governor D Subbarao said on Monday.

INDIA@75

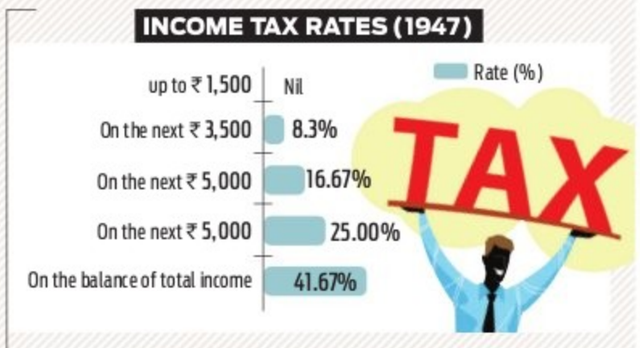
An overview of how Indian economy has come through over the last 75 years

Indian economy has gone through several ups and downs since Independence. In this period, India's GDP has grown from about ₹10,000 cr to over ₹236 lakh cr. Here's a glimpse of India's economic journey over the past 75 years

Macroeconomic Indicators	1947	2022
GDP #	10,401.00	2,36,64,637
Per Capita Income#	264	1,40,000
Total Revenue	173	21,68,426
Gross Tax Revenue	164	27,08,291
Incom tax	44.83	6,96,601
Corporate tax	40.43	7,12,037
Customs duty	54.5	1,99,114
Central Excise duties	20.72	3,90,807
Total expenditure	197	37,94,171
Fiscal Deficit	24	15,86,537
Total Debt	2,200	1,28,14,407

Source: Mospi, Union Budget; #At current price (1950-51); All figs in Rs or except per capita income which is in Rs

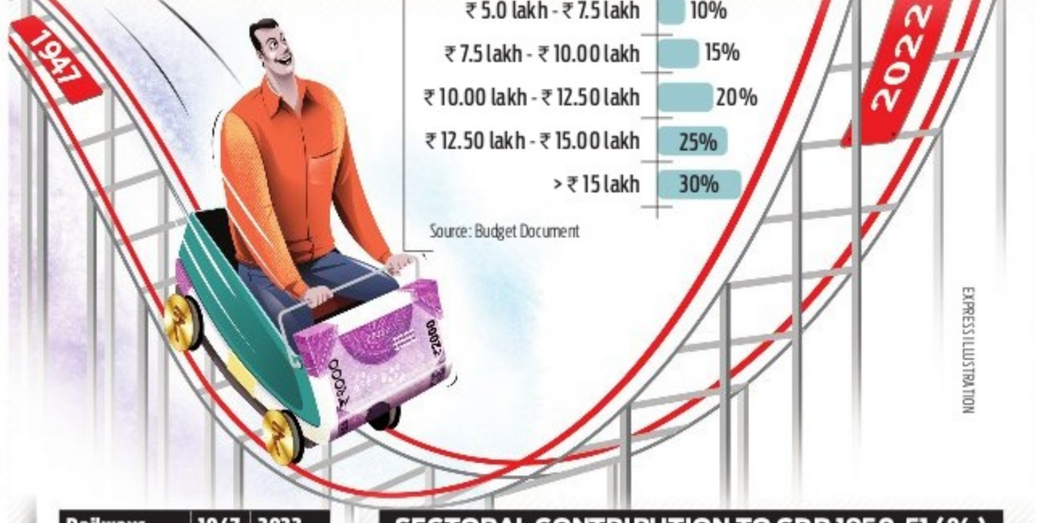
INCOME TAX RATES (1947)



INCOME TAX SLABS AND RATES FOR 2022-2023 AND AY 2023-24

₹ 0.0 up to ₹ 2.5 lakh	Nil
₹ 2.5 lakh - ₹ 5.0 lakh	5%
₹ 5.0 lakh - ₹ 7.5 lakh	10%
₹ 7.5 lakh - ₹ 10.00 lakh	15%
₹ 10.00 lakh - ₹ 12.50 lakh	20%
₹ 12.50 lakh - ₹ 15.00 lakh	25%
> ₹ 15 lakh	30%

Source: Budget Document



EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

Railways	1947	2022
Passenger Tariff	52	44,375
Goods Tariff	57	1,45,275
Total tariff receipt	116	2,02,000
Total working expense	107	1,49,800

in (₹cr)
Source: Budget document, Railway Ministry

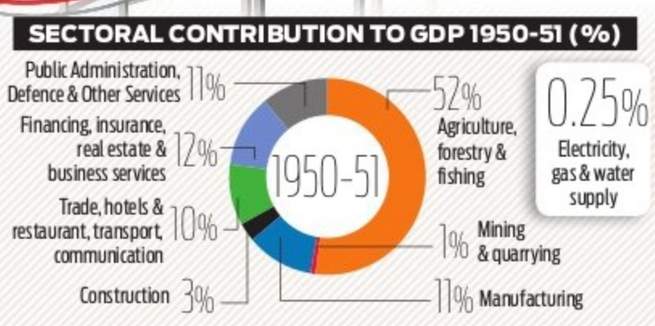
Trade	1947	2022
Foreign Trade	792	77,19,655
Exports	403	31,47,022.00
Imports	389	45,72,771.00

in (₹cr)
Source: Budget document, Ministry of Commerce

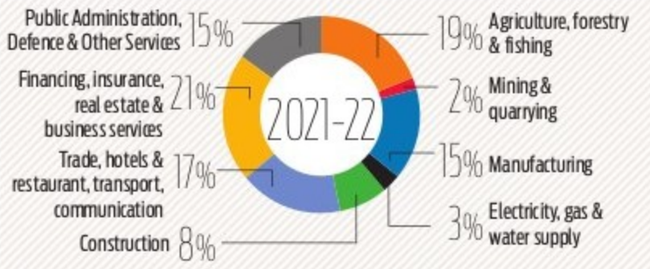
	1947	2022
Exchange rate (INR/dollar)	3.31	76
Forex Reserve (Rs cr)	1612	45,92,504
Inflation* (%)	6.3	6.95
Gross Household Savings (% of GDP)#	6.7	19.6

*Inflation in 1947 is based on Bombay Cost of Living Index
#Figs are for 1950-51 and 2019-20
Source: RBI, Mospi, Budget document

SECTORAL CONTRIBUTION TO GDP 1950-51 (%)


1950-51
Public Administration, Defence & Other Services 11%
Financing, insurance, real estate & business services 12%
Trade, hotels & restaurant, transport, communication 10%
Construction 3%
52% Agriculture, forestry & fishing
0.25% Electricity, gas & water supply
1% Mining & quarrying
11% Manufacturing

SECTORAL CONTRIBUTION TO GDP 2021-22 (%)


2021-22
Public Administration, Defence & Other Services 15%
Financing, insurance, real estate & business services 21%
Trade, hotels & restaurant, transport, communication 17%
Construction 8%
19% Agriculture, forestry & fishing
2% Mining & quarrying
15% Manufacturing
3% Electricity, gas & water supply

Other key indicators	1947	2022
Steel production (million tonne)	0.4	120
Cement (million tonne)	0.7	300
Power Generating Capacity (GW)	1.36	400
Number of telephone/ mobile connections (Million)	8.50	1166
National Highways (km)	19,811*	1,40,995

* Fig pertains to 1950-51 Source: Budget Document, Respective ministries, TRAI

4,000 units of vehicles were produced in 1950 in India, according to the first five-year plan data

23 MN units of vehicle were produced in in 2022, as per Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers

India becoming mfg hub: Modi

PM lauds PLI scheme, says people from abroad are bringing new tech, which is creating jobs

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
@ New Delhi

LAUDING the success of production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the scheme is giving a boost to the manufacturing, be it electronic goods or mobile phones.

During his Independence Day speech, the Prime Minister said India is becoming a manufacturing hub, building a foundation for a self-reliant India. The PM also expressed his satisfaction on the fact that majority of the startups have been ideated by those living in tier 2, tier 3 cities and villages.

Speaking of the PLI scheme, Modi said people from around the world are bringing new technologies along with them, which is generating new employment opportunities here.

"It is building a foundation for a self-reliant India. Be it manufacturing of electronic goods or mobile phones, today the country is progressing at a very fast pace. Which Indian wouldn't be proud when our Brahmos is exported to the world? Today the Vande Bharat train and our metro coaches are becoming objects of attraction for the world," PM Modi stated.

The government had first announced the PLI scheme in 2020 to boost domestic manicuring by giving financial incentives in the form of tax rebates, lowered import and export duties and relaxed land acquisition norms, among others. In the Budget 2021-22 speech, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced total outlay of ₹1.97 lakh crore for the PLI scheme. So far, the Centre has announced PLI scheme for 14 sectors including automobile and auto components, electronics and IT hardware, telecom, pharmaceuticals, solar modules, metals and mining, textiles and apparel, white goods, drones, and advanced chemistry cell batteries.

He stressed upon the need for becoming self-reliant in energy as India imports over 80% of oil to meet its requirement. Modi added that the country should be self-reliant in the fields of solar energy, wind energy and various other renewable energy sources like hydrogen, bio-fuel and electric vehicles. PM Modi also said India will soon witness 5G mobile service, which promises to have 10 times faster and offers lag-free connectivity.

While highlighting the need for digitalisation, he added that the complete transformation of the education ecosystem, revolution in health infrastructure and improvement in the quality of agricultural life will be possible only through digitalisation.

"Today we are all set to enter the 5G era. You don't have to wait too long before we match the global steps. We are ensuring that optical fiber reaches each and every village until the last mile," said the prime minister.

He called Digital India a movement of developing semiconductors, entering the 5G era, spreading the network of optical fibres.

STAKE SALE

KKR to sell 26% stake in Max Health

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ NewDelhi

AMERICAN private equity major KKR is all set to sell its remaining 26% stake in Max Healthcare Institute and exit the firm. The deal is expected to fetch KKR around ₹9,400 crore.

The stake sale, which will happen via block deals, would be executed through Kayak Investment, a KKR-affiliated entity that has invested in Max.

The shares will be sold at a price band of ₹350 to ₹362 a share. As per minutes of the deal, the base offer is for around 20% stake or 19.3 crore shares, and the upsize option is for the remaining 6.83% stake or 6.6 crore shares.

On Friday, the shares of Max Healthcare closed 2.74 percent lower at ₹361.55 apiece on the BSE. A large number of mutual funds, insurance companies and institutional investors are expected to participate in the offer which is managed by Jeffries India and Kotak Securities. KKR and its Mumbai-headquartered affiliate Radiant in 2018 had acquired 49.7% shares in Max Healthcare for ₹80 apiece.

Urban joblessness in Aug breaches 9% mark

SAMIKSHA GOEL @ NewDelhi

JOBLESSNESS is on the rise, driven by urban unemployment, which breached the 9% mark to stand at 9.12% till 14 August.

According to data by Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), the joblessness rate in the country has touched 7.71% as of August 14, driven majorly by urban unemployment which has crossed 9%, standing at 9.12% as on August 14.

Experts were hoping that unemployment would come down owing to the good monsoon and festive season.

The Unemployment rate in India had come down to a six-month low in July at 6.80%, as against 7.80% in June, driven by fall in rural unemployment. The rural unemployment rate saw a significant fall to 6.14% in July as against 8.03% in June. Experts had earlier suggested that the fall in rural unemployment in July could be due to steady monsoons, which have led to a pick-up in agricultural activity. However, as of August 14, rural unemployment has increased to 7.05%.

The urban unemployment rate, at the same time, has been on the rise and increased to 8.21% from 7.30% in June, before it breached the 9% mark by mid-August. The average urban unemployment rate has been well over 8% in the past 12 months, as per CMIE data.

One reason behind India's endemic unemployment despite high growth, according to Ajoy Thomas, Vice-president and Business Head (Retail, e-commerce, logistics, transportation), TeamLease, is the country's leapfrogging from a primarily farm economy to a booming services economy. "In no other country of India's size has seen growth led by services and not manufacturing," he said.

"India's growth has been powered by high-end services like software and finance manned by highly-skilled workers. There have been a few manufacturing or factory jobs that can absorb a large number of unskilled or low-skilled workers," Thomas explained.

ELECTRIC CAR

Ola e-car to hit market in 2024

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ NewDelhi

OLA ELECTRIC on Monday said its first electric car will arrive by 2024, with a claimed range of more than 500km on a single charge.

It has set a target of selling 10 lakh electric cars by 2026-2027. Ola founder and CEO Bhavish Aggarwal said Ola Electric aims to provide a range of electric two-wheelers and cars, priced in the range of ₹1 lakh to ₹50 lakh. This implies that Ola's cars would be premium ones and cost much more than Tata Nexon EV or MG Motor's ZS EV. "Like with its first scooter, Ola's debut four-wheeler vehicle will be rich in features and specs and will debut by summer of 2024. Ola's new car will be one of the fastest cars in India, that can go from 0-100 Km/h within 4 seconds and is being developed to have a range of more than 500km/charge," the EV maker said. Ola said the new car is designed to deliver a drag coefficient of less than 0.21 and will be the sportiest car ever built in India with an all-glass roof.

BPCL to put ₹1.4L cr in petrochem, gas biz

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ NewDelhi

BHARAT PETROLEUM CORPORATION LTD (BPCL), India's second-biggest oil refining and marketing company will invest ₹1.4 lakh crore in petrochemicals, city gas and clean energy in the next five years.

Its chairman and managing director Arun Kumar Singh, in the company's latest annual report said the energy landscape is changing globally and the company is recalibrating its strategies to leverage emerging opportunities while mitigating risks. "The company has firmed up plans to diversify and expand in adjacent and alternative businesses to create additional revenue streams," said Singh.

For expansion of its petrochemicals product portfolio, the company has identified two new refinery-integrated petrochemical projects –1.2 MMTPA Ethylene Cracker unit at Bina Refinery and 0.4 MMTPA Polypropylene unit at Kochi Refinery. In the natural gas sector, BPCL has secured licences for 8 new geographical areas (GAs) under the recently concluded 11th and 11A City Gas Distribution (CGD) bid rounds.

To achieve its net zero emission by 2040, the company established a new business unit "Renewable Energy '' to take forward this initiative. Also, the company has clearly articulated its RE targets to reach 1 GW by 2025 and 10 GW by 2040. BPCL has recently achieved blending of more than 10% ethanol in petrol and is committed to enhancing the blending in line with the road map laid out by the government. In the electric mobility space, to address range anxiety pertaining to electric 4-wheelers, the company came up with a novel concept of creating highway fast-charging corridors. Singh called the international energy market volatile and said the profit of domestic oil companies have taken a severe hit on the marketing side.

FINTECH

By Q4, PB Fintech aims breakeven

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Bengaluru

PB FINTECH, which owns online insurance aggregator Policybazaar and credit marketplace Paisabazaar, expects its credit business to turn adjusted EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation & amortisation)-positive by fourth quarter of this fiscal, and it is not seeing any slowdown for the next four years.

Yashish Dahiya, Chairman and CEO of PB Fintech, said in an earnings conference call recently that the company will be increasing profitability by ₹150 crore from now on, and that they could reach the profitability over the next 4-5 years if it breaks even by the fourth quarter. Its core business - Policybazaar and Pasiabazaar - grew at 59% year-on-year (YoY) and has now been adjusted EBITDA-positive for the second quarter. Its insurance business had an adjusted EBITDA of ₹18 crore positive in the first quarter of this fiscal.

M&M unveils 5 e-SUVs; XUV.e8 launch in '24

ARSHAD KHAN @ NewDelhi

TO capture the growing market for electric vehicles (EVs), homegrown auto-major Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) on Monday unveiled five new electric sports utility vehicles (e-SUVs) under two EV brands -- XUV and BE.

The five e-SUVs are named: the XUV.e8, XUV.e9, BE.05, BE.07 and BE.09. The XUV.e8 will be launched in December 2024, while the XUV.e9, BE.05 and BE.07 are slated to be launched between April 2025 and October 2026. Mahindra hasn't given the launch date of BE.09.

Mahindra's ambitious foray comes as the global automotive industry is switching from over a century old internal combustion engine (ICE) technology to battery powered vehicles and every automaker, from legacy players to new-age companies, putting in their best show to stay relevant.

The contribution of e-4Ws in India's overall passenger vehicle sales stand nowhere close to that of the USA or China but in recent times it has seen some traction. At present, Tata Motor dominates this segment in India.Anand Mahindra, chairperson of M&M, believes the Mahindra brand could lead the e-4W market supported by the skills it learnt through its electric 3-wheeler business and also its vast R&D network spread across the world

"Today with the government support, rapid fall in total cost ownership and increased consumer awareness of environmental issues, we believe the time is ripe for us to enter the 4-wheeler market. Also, we have bigger plans in electric 4-wheeler not just for India, but around the world," he said while unveiling his company's electric mobility vision in the United Kingdom.

Mahindra also showcased its new INGLO platform that will underpin all their EVs going forward and formally inaugurated its new design centre of excellence, Mahindra Advanced Design Europe (M.A.D.E) in Oxfordshire.

Mahindra Group Managing Director & CEO Anish Shah said that by 2027, they expect that a quarter of their SUV sales will come from EVs.

Mahindra and German automaker Volkswagen on Monday said they have inked a pact to further explore co-operation in the EV segment. The partnership intends to have a volume of more than one million units over lifetime and include the equipment of five e-SUVs with MEB components.

Besides M&M, India's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki and Tata Motors are pumping billions of dollars in developing EVs. Tata Motors plans to invest to the tune of $2 billion over the next five years during to have a portfolio of 10 EVs while Suzuki Motor has committed ₹10,440 crore as it aims to launch its first EV by 2025. Mahindra also has plans to invest over $1 billion. The company in July raised ₹70,070 crore from British International Investment.

Upcoming electric SUVs

The carmaker expects that a quarter of their SUV sales will come from electric SUVs by 2027, says MD & CEO Anish Shah

XUV.e8	XUV.e9	BE.05
Launch: December 2024	Launch: April 2025	Launch: October 2025
Dimensions: L x W x H 4740 x 1900 x 1760 mm	Dimensions: L x W x H 4790 x 1905 x 1690 mm	Dimensions: L x W x H 4370 x 1900 x 1635 mm
Wheelbase 2762 mm	Wheelbase 2775 mm	Wheelbase 2775 mm

All the 5 EVs are based on Mahindra's INGLO platform

175KW fast-charge and charging up to 80% in less than 30 minutes

BE.07	BE.09
Launch: December 2026,	Launch: To be confirmed
Dimensions: L x W x H 4565 x 1900 x 1660 mm, Wheelbase 2775 mm	Dimensions : To be confirmed
	Wheelbase : To be confirmed

- INGLO's capabilities: Offered with options ranging from 60-80 kWhr battery capacity. Range up to 450 km
- Standstill to 100 kmph is promised in between 5 and 6 seconds

Today with the government support, rapid fall in total cost ownership and increased consumer awareness of environmental issues, we believe the time is ripe for us to enter the 4-wheeler market

Anand Mahindra, chairperson of M&M

Chappelli calls it quits on commentary career

Former Australia captain Ian Chappell, who spent 45 years explaining the game behind the microphone, has called it a day on his commentary career. With Richie Benaud, Bill Lawry and Tony Greig, Chappell formed an unmatched quartet for Channel Nine. In 2019, he was diagnosed with skin cancer and underwent five weeks of treatment to beat the disease.

Ministry-FIFA meet to defuse deadlock & 'enabling' side of sports code

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) and the court-appointed Committee of Arbitrators (CoA) seem to be wading through troubled waters. The Supreme Court, while passing an order on August 3, had asked the CoA to go ahead with the elections under new provisions included in the draft AIFF constitution.

One such proposal of the CoA was "the electoral college will comprise of (i) representatives of State Federations; and (ii) representatives of eminent players". There are 36 state federations and each of them would select one representative to vote in the elections. The order said "the CoA has proposed that for the ensuing elections, a list of 36 eminent player representatives will form a part of the electoral college".

A day later FIFA, through a letter, threatened to withdraw recognition and even take away the U-17 women's World Cup that was scheduled to start on October 11. Something that has even the sports ministry worried.

It is understood that FIFA is averse to individual members getting voting rights in AIFF electoral college.

"...the AIFF was to call for a special general assembly on the first week of August 2022 to approve the new statutes worked upon with FIFA, the AFC and the Indian football community. Unfortunately, we have been informed that the Supreme Court's hearing held yesterday on the situation of the AIFF allegedly resulted in deviations to the aforementioned roadmap." wrote the FIFA.

For them, hosting the event is of paramount importance. There was a meeting between FIFA and the sports ministry on Monday to find a solution and defuse the matter. The ministry is trying to get certain sticky points out of the new constitution. They had already sought SC intervention and had requested it to review the order.

On Monday too, the ministry was trying to find an 'amicable solution'. However, there is a point or two in the August 3 order that seem a little ambiguous vis-a-vis the Sports Code. The ministry counsel submitted in the court that the "Sports Code is an enabling document and not a restrictive document". This has led to some consternation among NSFs as well. Though it is an order related to AIFF and whether 36 eminent players can be part of the general assembly with voting rights, it may have a wider implication. The 2011 Sports Code has been framed for "basic universal principles of good governance, ethics and fair play".

It consists of executive orders passed over a period of time. It is mandatory for all NSFs to follow the code in order to get recognition. Some of its provisions that cater to age, tenure, term, accountability of federation officials, etc. must be followed.

Senior sports lawyer, Rahul Mehra, explains it succinctly. "The basic structure of the code is mandatory and sacrosanct and cannot be diluted," he said. "What it meant was that for the larger interest of sports and sportspersons, we can expand upon provisions of the Sports Code. So it's enabling in nature for the betterment of sport."

The SC during its order said: "The National Sports Code cannot be read in the manner of a statute. A holistic understanding of its provisions has to be arrived at in order to effectuate both its intent and purpose."

Mehra said that though the code is not read as a statute, it is mandatory for NSFs. Since the above statement was said in the context of CoA's 36 eminent players to be included in the electoral college with voting rights, it should not be taken out of context.

"The minimum representation of sportspersons is 25 per cent in Sports Code and the CoA wanted to make it 50 per cent and the court said that the code needs to be looked into it holistically. The SC agreed to include 50 per cent representation."

The recently published electoral college of the AIFF shows that there are 31 state units and 36 eminent footballers. Among them there are about 13 from Bengal and some nine from the northeast. With the U17 Women's World Cup at stake with FIFA threatening to suspend AIFF, it needs to be seen how the CoA responds and what their reply will be when the Supreme Court begins its hearing on August 17.

SATWIK PUTS CHAMPAGNE ON ICE

CWG celebrations on hold for the doubles specialist as he looks to conquer Worlds with Chirag in Tokyo

ANMOL GURUNG @ Chennai

SATWIKSAIRAJ Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty had experienced euphoria in Birmingham recently. After becoming the first men's doubles pair from the country to claim a gold medal at the Commonwealth Games, Chirag was as animated as ever while the former displayed his dancing moves in front of the camera. The immediate on-court celebrations were apt. Barely a week after that historic moment, the duo are back to the grind. They are not resting on their laurels yet and have put off-court celebrations on hold ahead of the World Championship, which is scheduled to begin from August 22 in Tokyo (Japan).

"I have not celebrated so far. We have more to do. My mind is not satisfied. On court, for that moment, it was fine," Satwik tells this daily from Hyderabad, where they have resumed training after a two-day break.

"From the start itself I was telling myself, 'Don't be satisfied with CWG, you have the World Championships as well'. Once I'm done with the Worlds, maybe I can go celebrate, no matter how I play. But I want to go all-in in this upcoming Worlds. I don't know what the future holds, but we'll give our 100 per cent," he adds.

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy (R) & Chirag Shetty won gold in the CWG men's doubles event | AP

That kind of attitude is one of the reasons why the duo, despite being relatively young, are heading towards legendary status. In 2022 itself, they have been part of three landmark moments. At the India Open, they won their first Super 500 event. In the Thomas Cup, they played a pivotal role in helping India do the unthinkable and return with gold. And that was followed by the aforementioned CWG success.

> We are trying to mix our game, it's not the same as before. We are trying new things. That rhythm is building slowly and we want to develop to become top players.
>
> -Satwiksairaj Rankireddy

"We wanted to finish on the podium as many times as possible this year. Luckily, this is the third one this year. India Open and Thomas Cup and this... great so far," Satwik notes.

But Satwik and Chirag, who are World No 7, know they still have plenty of room to improve. Satwik, who celebrated his 22nd birthday recently with some of the CWG athletes at PM's official residence, feels they'll only get better with time."We are in the right direction, especially since Mathias (Boe) came. We have lost a few matches but we have a feeling that we are doing the right thing. It can take time to be on the winning side. We are trying to mix our game, it's not the same as before. Even during the Thomas Cup, we had some good matches. During the CWG, we had plenty of pressure, but we did well."

Upon Boe's advice, the Amalapuram-born star has made subtle adjustments to his lifestyle, something that he feels has made a big difference. "During my junior days, I could go out and eat whatever I wanted. Now, I'm realising that I don't have that luxury. Small things make a huge difference. If I go out, I'll be tired and that could affect my game. So now, I only go once on Saturday. I can rest on Sunday and then resume practice on Monday. In the past, I used to go out for movies and food. It is very difficult but we have to do this if we want to break into the top three. We have to be professional."

Another reason why the Birmingham return was fulfilling was the fact that his elder brother, Ramcharan, someone who has inspired him over the years, was rooting for him from the stands. "It was a special moment. We were literally in tears. He recently got married and his wife was also there. So it was like a first anniversary gift from my side."

Coimbatore, Salem & Chennai in line to host Duleep Trophy

VENKATA KRISHNA B @ Chennai

THE Board of Control for Cricket in India has handpicked Coimbatore, Salem and Chennai as host cities for the Duleep Trophy, set to begin on September 8. A recce team of the BCCI will carry out the inspections at Sri Ramakrishna Arts and Science College in Coimbatore on Tuesday before heading to Salem Cricket Foundation for the same on Wednesday.

The multi-day tournament, which has made a return to the domestic calendar after a two season gap, will be played in a zonal format contested by six teams – north, south, east, west, central and northeast — in a knockout format which includes quarterfinals, semifinals and final.

It is understood that the initial plans was to host the tournament in Lucknow or Vizag, but the BCCI wanted to take it to new cities and with monsoon expected to affect matches in the west and north, it eventually narrowed in on Coimbatore and Salem. "The BCCI has picked three venues for the five matches. The first match will take place at Chepauk before moving to Coimbatore, from where they will take the road to Salem for the semi-finals. The plan is to host the final in Coimbatore," TNCA secretary RS Ramasaamy told TNIE.

This is not the first time the BCCI has taken the Duleep Trophy outside of Chennai. In the 2018-19 season, Dindigul hosted the tournament which was the last to be played with the pink ball. With regards to Coimbatore and Salem, both the cities came on the cricketing map only recently as they hosted the Tamil Nadu Premier League matches last month, which were televised.

"The plan is to take the game to the new centres and when we looked at it, these cities very much fit the bill as they are very well connected in terms of air travel and hotels. Since, other venues are busy preparing for the domestic season, the BCCI felt Coimbatore and Salem will be ideal as the pitches and outfield are already in good condition," a BCCI official familiar with developments told this daily.

Meanwhile, with regards to India A versus New Zealand A series in September, Lucknow, Vizag or Bengaluru could play host to it with the BCCI yet to shortlist the venue. There is a strong possibility that multiple venues will be included for the series and quite a few state units are understood to have expressed their interest to host the series.

TNCA FIRST DIVISION

The TNCA First Division matches for the 2022/23 season will begin on August 18 in Chennai. After initial plans to host the tournament in a four-day format, the TNCA after consultation with the teams and owing to a cramped schedule has decided to make it a three-day affair. By this the 12 teams will face each other in the league stages and first six rounds take place in August-September, before it takes a break for the domestic season.

Fitness top priority for Nadal on return to action in Cincinnati

Rafael Nadal will be playing his first match since Wimbledon injury at Cincinnati | AFP

AFP @ Cincinnati

RAFAEL Nadal is keeping expectations in check while focusing on fitness as he prepares for the Cincinnati Masters.

The world number three, who handed in an abdominal muscle injury walkover in his Wimbledon semifinal with Nick Kyrgios, takes the second seeding behind Daniil Medvedev in the American Midwest at the joint ATP and WTA tournament. With Novak Djokovic missing due to his refusal to get a Covid-19 vaccination, the 36-year-old Spaniard has one less dangerous opponent to deal with at the US Open tuneup.

Nadal could return to the top ranking spot for the first time since January 2020, which would mean a top seeding at the US Open starting on August 29. But for Nadal, it's all about keeping healthy, letting the results fall where they may. "Number one is nice but staying healthy is the most important thing," Nadal said on Sunday. "I don't have a goal of returning to number one.

"If that happens because I play very well, then it would mean a lot to have that opportunity." The 2013 Cincinnati champion said that his goal will be to "stay healthy and finish the season playing where I want to play. I won't play more than what I think will work for my body."

Nadal, who has put in a brutal training schedule since arriving in Cincinnati at midweek, said that still feels pain on serve from his injury. But he said that obstacles are part of any comeback.

Meanwhile, Nadal will sit out the group stage of the Davis Cup finals next month after not being named in the Spain team on Monday, while Alexander Zverev will lead the German side.

EXPRESS READ

PGTI Chennai Open from August 23

CHENNAI: The next edition of the Chennai Open, a Professional Golf Association of India (PGTI) event, will be held from August 23. The four-day, stroke-play event, as part of the PGTI calendar, will see Khalin Joshi and Shamim Khan taking part. Defending champion Mithun Perera will also feature as per the entry list. The total prize money is `40 lakh and will be held at TNGF Cosmo Golf Course. ENS

Kho kho: Mumbai, Odisha secure wins

PUNE: Mumbai Khiladis and Odisha Juggernauts opened their account in Ultimate Kho Kho by securing wins by a similar eight-point margin at the Shree Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex, Pune on Monday. While Mumbai Khiladis earned a nail-biting eight-point victory against Rajasthan Warriors (51-43), Odisha Juggernauts also kick-started their campaign with a 51-43 win over Chennai Quick Guns.

Carreno Busta wins Montreal title

Pablo Carreno Busta is the 1st unseeded winner in Canada in two decades | AFP

AFP @ Montreal

PABLO Carreno Busta seized his first ATP Masters title Sunday, spoiling Hubert Hurkacz's perfect record in ATP finals with a Montreal Masters triumph.

The 23rd-ranked Spaniard beat eighth-seeded Hurkacz 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 to become the first unseeded winner in Canada in two decades. Carreno notched his seventh ATP title, but his first in an elite Masters 1000 event in his first opportunity. "It's an amazing feeling to be a Masters 1000 winner," Carreno Busta said.

"It's the best title of my career for sure. I know that during all the week we worked very hard, also the weeks before. It's very important to be very positive all the time. It's not my best season this year. I lost some matches that probably other seasons I didn't lose, but I just tried to continue believing in my team, in myself and in my game." Carreno Busta became the first unseeded winner in Canada in two decades. Poland's Hurkacz had been unbeaten in five finals, Carreno Busta putting the first blemish on that record in just over an hour and three quarters.

He survived 18 aces from Hurkacz to become the first Canadian champion ranked outside the Top 20 since number 43 Andrei Pavel in 2001 at Montreal.

FOOTBALL

Alaba free-kick helps Real start on winning note

AFP @ Madrid

DAVID Alaba scored with a stunning free-kick immediately after coming on as a substitute as reigning champions Real Madrid came from behind to beat Almeria 2-1 in their opening game of the season in La Liga on Sunday.

Carlo Ancelotti's side trailed to an early goal by Largie Ramazani away against their promoted opponents, but Lucas Vazquez equalised just after the hour mark. The winner arrived with 15 minutes remaining at Almeria's Power Horse Stadium, as Alaba strode onto the pitch and curled a free-kick in off the upright after Luka Modric had been fouled just outside the box.

Real were made to work hard for the points against an Almeria side who won last season's second-tier title to return to La Liga after a seven-year absence. "We had lots of shots on goal but once we got the first goal it made things much easier for us," said Ancelotti.

"I am happy with the way the game went. We were not spectacular but there were lots of things to take into account, like the game on Wednesday and the heat."

At one point it looked like Madrid might suffer a defeat in their opening league game of the season for the first time since 2008, with Ancelotti's decision to rotate his squad not initially paying off.

The Italian had made five changes to the line-up that started in Wednesday's 2-0 win over Eintracht Frankfurt in the UEFA Super Cup in Helsinki, when goals by Alaba and Karim Benzema gave the defending European champions the first silverware of the campaign.

Alaba and Modric were among the players dropped to the bench, while close-season signings Antonio Rudiger and Aurelien Tchouameni were handed first competitive starts for their new club.

Yet the game was just six minutes old when former Chelsea defender Rudiger was caught out by a ball over the top and Ramazani ran through to beat Thibaut Courtois.

Ramazani, the 21-year-old Belgian winger who used to be on the books at Manchester United, ran off to celebrate in acrobatic fashion as Saudi-owned Almeria enjoyed a dream start to their top-flight comeback.

Vazquez then had the ball in the net in the 43rd minute only to be denied by a very tight offside call, but the full-back was the man who dragged the away side back level in the 61st minute as he pounced on a loose ball in the area to score.

Real Madrid's David Alaba (L) celebrates scoring his team's second goal in the opening game of the La Liga season against UD Almeria on Sunday | AFP

Covid-19 vaccine maker Moderna announced Monday that it will open an mRNA vaccine manufacturing facility in the Australian city of Melbourne, a first for the southern hemisphere. The project will be based at one of Australia's largest universities, Monash, and will produce 100 million vaccine doses a year for Covid-19, influenza and other diseases

EXFILE • NATURAL DISASTER

ICELAND'S MAIN VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS

Known as the land of fire and ice, Iceland is Europe's biggest and most active volcanic region, home to a third of the lava that has flowed on Earth since the Middle Ages, according to Visit Iceland

MID-ATLANTIC RIDGE

The vast North Atlantic island straddles the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, a crack on the ocean floor separating the Eurasian and North American tectonic plates

The shifting of these plates is in part responsible for Iceland's intense volcanic activity

ERUPTION OF THE MOUNT FAGRADALSFJALL 2021

On March 19, 40 km from the capital Reykjavik, a volcanic eruption spewed more than **140 million cubic metres** of magma into the valleys of Geldingadalur over six months, making it the longest Icelandic eruption in 50 years

32 ACTIVE VOLCANOES

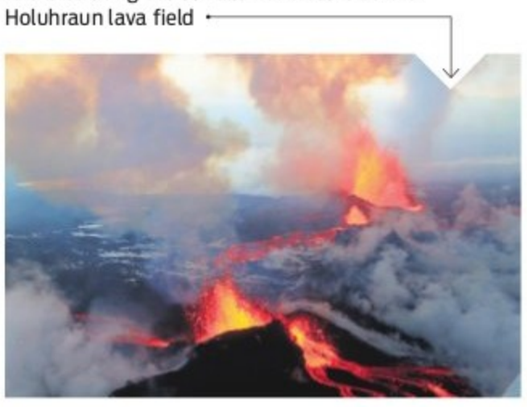
Thirty-two volcanic systems are currently considered active in the country

1875

Virtually unknown at the time, Askja, Iceland's second-biggest volcano system, erupted in three distinct phases. Two of the three ash clouds rose more than 20 km into the sky. The toxic fallout across Iceland, which in some places reached a thickness of 20 cm killed livestock, contaminated the soil and sparked a wave of emigration to North America.

2014-2015: A CONTINUOUS ERUPTION

Bardarbunga, a volcano located under the Vatnajokull glacier in the heart of southern Iceland's uninhabited highlands, erupted for five months, both under the ice and breaching the surface in a fissure at the Holuhraun lava field



2011 GRIMSVOTN VOLCANO

Also located under the Vatnajokull glacier, is Iceland's most active volcano. Its latest eruption was in May 2011, its ninth since 1902. Over one week, it spouted a cloud of ash 25 km into the sky

1973: ERUPTION OF THE ELDFELL VOLCANO

In one of the most dramatic eruptions in the country's history, the island of Heimaey in the Westman Islands awoke one January morning to an eruption in a fissure just 150 metres from the town centre. The eruption of the Eldfell volcano occurred not only in a populated area but it also surprised locals at dawn

1918 KATLA ERUPTION

Considered one of Iceland's most dangerous volcanoes, Katla's last eruption added five kilometres of land mass to the country's southern coast. Located under the Myrdalsjokull glacier, when Katla erupts it ejects large quantities of tephra, or solidified magma rock fragments. Averaging two eruptions per century, Katla has not erupted violently for more than 100 years and experts say it is overdue

Eldgja

The eruption of Eldgja is the biggest basalt lava eruption the world has ever seen. It is part of the same volcanic system as the mighty Katla volcano

Amid concerns, UN resumes talks on high-seas treaty

ENVIRONMENT

UNITED NATIONS: After four inconclusive sessions, UN member states on Monday resumed talks aimed at finally completing a treaty to protect the world's high seas, a vital yet fragile resource that covers nearly half the planet.

A host of NGOs and affected countries say the pact is urgently needed to improve environmental stewardship over the vast, yet largely unregulated, area as it faces growing challenges. But the Covid-19 pandemic slowed negotiations for two years, and a session in March that was supposed to have been conclusive made progress but ran out of time.

The new round of talks opening Monday is set to run through August 26 at United Nations headquarters in New York.

Whether it will really be the last round remains uncertain, according to those close to the talks. Negotiators are "cautiously optimistic," said a source with the High Ambition Coalition, which groups some 50 countries led by the European Union.

The source told *AFP* that participants need to find a compromise between two "grand ideas": protecting the environment and regulating human activities on the one hand, while also guarding freedoms on the high seas. The high seas begin at the border of nations' exclusive economic zones (EEZs), which by international law reach no more than 200 nautical miles (370 kilometers) from each country's coast, and are under no state's jurisdiction.

Even if the high seas represent more than 60% of the oceans—and nearly half the planet—they have long been largely ignored in favour of coastal zones, with protections extended only to a few vulnerable species. Only one per cent of the high seas enjoys legal protection.

Yet, scientists have proved the importance of protecting oceanic ecosystems in their entirety. They produce half the oxygen humans breathe and help limit global warming by absorbing much of the carbon dioxide emitted by human activity. They are seriously at risk, however, from the continuing rise in levels of carbon dioxide (which intensifies warming and makes ocean waters more acid), pollution and overfishing.

That adds to the urgency of finally completing the global pact on the "Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction," say NGOs and the High Ambition Coalition.

"This treaty is of major importance," said Julien Rochette, a researcher with the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI), "because it is going to provide a framework—a compass—for the principles and rules guiding the entire international community in managing this common space."

But the latest treaty draft still fails to resolve several issues or to choose among diverse and contending options, such as the conditions for creating so-called Marine Protected Areas.

FACT OF THE MATTER

UK clears new Moderna vax

COVID

The UK's drug regulator said on Monday it had approved an updated Moderna vaccine against Covid-19 that targets the Omicron variant as well as the original form of the virus. The Medicine and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) said in a statement said it had approved the vaccine for adult booster doses "after it was found to meet the UK regulator's standards of safety, quality and effectiveness". It was the first such "bivalent" Covid-19 vaccine to be approved by the British regulator. The MHRA's chief executive June Raine said data from a clinical trial had shown it prompted a "strong immune response" against the original virus and Omicron and would provide a "sharpened tool in our armoury" as the virus kept evolving. Moderna's CEO Stephane Bancel said in a statement that the US biotech company was "delighted" by the decision, "the first authorization of an Omicron-containing bivalent vaccine".

Germans face big energy levy

ENERGY

German households face an energy surcharge reaching hundreds of euros in the wake of the Ukraine war, according to the rate published Monday, prompting the government to promise relief measures. The charge has been set at 2.419 cents per kilowatt hour, said Trading Hub Europe, a non-profit company of energy network operators in Germany. For a family of four with an annual average energy usage of 20,000 kwh, this would come to about 483.80 euros before goods and services taxes. The surcharge is aimed at sharing out the soaring costs borne by energy importers after Russia drastically curtailed gas supplies to Germany following its invasion of Ukraine. Gas importers have so far taken on the additional costs themselves, but a new rule agreed by the government allows them to pass on ballooning costs via the levy to households from October 1.

Marshall Islands sees a spike in Covid cases

HEALTH

MAJURO: A health disaster has been declared on the Marshall Islands after the fast-spreading Covid variant Omicron infected more than a tenth of residents in the capital Majuro in one week.

Since a handful of positive community cases were confirmed on August 8, the numbers have skyrocketed to 2,800 in a city of 22,500.

"We're gearing up for the hardest part of the outbreak right now in Majuro," Health Secretary Jack Niedenthal said on Monday. Thanks to strict quarantine rules, the Marshalls Islands was one of the last countries to stay Covid-free.

"The good thing about having all these other countries go before us is we really understand epidemiologically how this variant of the virus spreads: like wildfire," Niedenthal added.

On Friday, the Marshalls' President David Kabua signed a "State of Health Disaster" to give the government access to emergency funding. So far, there have been 3,000 positive cases in a population of around 42,000 across the islands and atolls that comprise the Marshalls. Niedenthal warned the outbreak was continuing "to gain strength" in Majuro, as the number of cases doubled from Saturday to Sunday.

"About 75% of the people we test are positive, which is an incredibly high rate," he added So far, three deaths have been reported. Three "Alternative Care Sites" set up in Majuro have been swamped by people seeking treatment for symptoms and testing.

Local health officials initially struggled to cope with demand as thousands of islanders clamoured for help even as 200 doctors and nurses across the country tested positive for Covid. The outbreak has since spread from the capital to Ebeye, the densely populated community next door to the US military's Reagan Test Site at Kwajalein Atoll.

The tiny island, home to about 1,000 people, would likely see a surge in cases, Niedenthal warned on Monday. "They are about a week behind Majuro," he said.

PAYING RESPECTS

Japan's Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako bow as they attend a memorial service marking the 77th anniversary of Japan's World War II defeat, at the Nippon Budokan hall in Tokyo on Monday | AFP

Ecological catastrophe in Oder River

MARINE LIFE

BERLIN: Germany's environment minister said the mass die-off of fish in the Oder River is an ecological catastrophe and it isn't clear yet how long it will take the river to recover.

Steffi Lemke spoke Sunday at a news conference alongside her Polish counterpart, Anna Moskwa, after a meeting in Szczecin, a Polish city on the Oder River.

The Oder runs from Czechia to the border between Poland and Germany before flowing into the Baltic Sea. Ten tons of dead fish were removed from it last week, but Mokswa said the cause of the mass die-off still has not yet been determined.

"So far, at least 150 samples of water from the Oder River have been tested. None of the studies have confirmed the presence of toxic substances. At the same time, we are testing fish. No mercury or other heavy metals have been found in them," she said.

She said some Oder water samples were being sent to foreign laboratories to be tested for about 300 substances.

Both ministers said they were focused now on doing what they can to limit the damage to the river's ecosystem.

Red panda found after escaping zoo

WILDLIFE

A red panda that spent two days on the lam after escaping from an Australian zoo was recaptured on Sunday after he was spotted hanging out in a fig tree in a nearby park. Named Ravi, the 7-year-old panda had arrived at Adelaide Zoo last week after he was brought in from another zoo with hopes that he would pair up with a female red panda named Mishry. But by Friday, Ravi was gone. Adelaide Zoo Director Phil Ainsley told the Australian Broadcasting Corp. that zookeepers spent Sunday trying to entice Ravi down from the fig tree with some of his favourite foods. In the end they fired a tranquiliser dart. "We used a couple of different dart devices, finally got a dart into him and then just had to wait about 15 minutes just for the drug to take some effect," Ainsley said. Ravi then fell into the blankets of zookeepers who were waiting beneath the tree.

ARTEMIS 1

All systems go in Houston as NASA prepares return to Moon

SPACE

HOUSTON: Rick LaBrode has worked at NASA for 37 years, but he says the American quest to return to the Moon is by far the crowning moment of his career. LaBrode is the lead flight director for Artemis 1, set to take off later this month—the first time a capsule that can carry humans will be sent to the Moon since the last Apollo mission in 1972.

"This is more exciting than really anything I've ever been a part of," LaBrode told journalists at the US space agency's Mission Control Center in Houston, Texas.

The 60-year-old confided to *AFP* that the eve of the launch is likely to be a long night of anticipation—and little rest.

"I'm going to be so excited. I won't be able to sleep too much, I'm sure of that," he said, in front of Mission Control's iconic giant bank of screens.

Artemis 1, an uncrewed test flight, will feature the first blastoff of the massive Space Launch System (SLS) rocket, which will be the most powerful in the world when it goes into operation.

It will propel the Orion crew capsule into orbit around the Moon. The spacecraft will remain in space for 42 days before returning to Earth.

From 2024, astronauts will travel aboard Orion for the same trip, and the following year, at the earliest, Americans will once again step foot on the Moon. For the duration of Artemis 1, a team of about a dozen NASA personnel will remain in Mission Control 24 hours a day. The centre has been renovated and updated for the occasion.

Teams have been rehearsing for this moment for three years. "This is a whole new deal—a whole new rocket, a whole new spacecraft, a whole new control centre," explained Brian Perry, the flight dynamics officer, who will be in charge of Orion's trajectory immediately following the launch.

"I can tell you, my heart is going to be tum tum, tum tum. But I'll work hard to keep focused," Perry, who worked on numerous space shuttle flights over the years said. Beyond upgrades to Mission Control for the mission, the entire Johnson Space Center is a bit over the Moon about Artemis.

In the middle of astronaut training tank—the world's largest indoor swimming pool at more than 200 feet long, 100 feet wide and 40 feet deep—a black curtain has been erected.

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DAY'S DIARY

Against Abuse

On this day in 2017, Pope Francis and the Vatican issued a statement in support of the 300 victims of "predator priests" in Pennsylvania

EXTENDING SUPPORT

The Church expressed "shame and sorrow" while also suggesting that reforms undertaken by its leaders had sharply reduced the prevalence of clergy sex abuse since 2002

THE HORRIFIC TRUTH

Over 1,000 children were abused across seven decades, a grand jury said, in a devastating report that decried a systematic cover-up by the Catholic Church

LEARNING FROM THE PAST

Vatican spokesman Greg Burke said that the Church must learn hard lessons from its past, and there should be accountability for all abusers

Check out Xpress Highway

PG 3

Visual artist and Shruti Haasan's beau Santanu Hazarika, who was in the city for a Royal Enfield event, talks about their relationship, his work, and the way the creative world functions

DOODLE DYNAMO

MONIKA MONALISA

THERE has been incessant chirping from the people agog over the betrothal of singer-actor Shruti Haasan and her beau doodle artist and rapper Santanu Hazarika, but Hazarika handily says they are in a good space now. "We are together as partners, and have been open about it. There are artistic collaborations between us every day. We are two creative people who have found our own corners," says the artist, who has been dating Haasan since 2020.

He was in the city recently for a Royal Enfield event where he customised their helmets live, and released five hand-painted helmets. Apart from ensuring safety in style, Hazarika, who hails from Assam, is also a multidisciplinary autodidact visual artist based in Mumbai.

His choices are idiosyncratic when he dropped out of his engineering studies to become the first-ever Redbull World Doodle Art Champion in 2014. "The trade-off has paid off well. It's quite challenging, and at the same time, satisfying for me. It's full of surprises and struggles as well. Right now, I am my own boss. I am starting my own movement, creating my own crowd who appreciates my artwork. If I were an engineer, I don't think these possibilities could be explored. However, I was never into engineering but more inclined towards art and design," says Hazarika, adding that he is happy with the prevailing situation in his career.

In a span of just a few years, his base of clients have grown manifold which include Red Bull International, Adidas, Reebok, Harper's, Dust of Gods, Ministry of Culture, Gully Gang, Azadi records, Ritviz, Nucleya, Major Lazer and hip-hop artists Raftaar, and Divine, among many others.

I'm my own boss. I'm starting my own movement, creating my own crowd who appreciates my artwork. If I were an engineer, I don't think these possibilities could be explored

Santanu Hazarika, doodle artist & rapper

Hazarika, who has emerged from a creative field, and founded the Gauhati Art Project which is an art collective, says his work feels like any other profession.

"It is a creative business and has a structure. Just because I am a visual artist does not mean that this profession does not entail those things which are required in other fields. Managing a client, setting up an office, working, finding new inspiration, learning new skills, marketing your own product, planning your collaborations and projects much ahead – all these are part of any field in any industry," he explains.

He reveals that his grandmother would regale him with stories from the Mahabharata from which he derives a lot of inspiration from, apart from the comic books that he had read during his growing up years. Hazarika feels there is huge scope for the doodle artist in India, but each story and each struggle is different, and having some patience in the field is important.

WATCH LIST

WEDDING SEASON (ENGLISH)

Asha and Ravi pretend they are dating each other under pressure from their parents to marry, only to find themselves falling for each other. **Cast:** Pallavi Sharda, Suraj Sharma, Arianna Afsar, Sean Kleier, Veena Sood **Watch on:** Netflix

CARTER (KOREAN)

Waking up into a bloody hotel room without any memory, Carter relies on a voice in his head to survive, and carry out a rescue mission in this action-packed thriller.

Cast: Joo Won, Camilla Belle, Jeong Seo-ri, Mike Colter, Lee Sung-jae

Watch on: Netflix

BANK ROBBERS: THE LAST GREAT HEIST (SPANISH)

Based on real events, a series of sit-down interviews of the perpetrators on how and why they carried out the most famous bank robbery in Argentina. **Cast:** Fernando Araujo, Walter Serrano, Miguel Sileo, Daniel Salcedo

Watch on: Netflix

AAVASAVYUHAM (MALAYALAM)

Joy has a peculiar connection with nature, nobody knows where he came from, and a marriage proposal goes wrong, snowballing into a major issue.

Cast: Ajayaghosh, Sreejith Babu, Sreenath Babu, Eldose Jacob, Kalesh Kannattu

Watch on: Sonyliv

RASHTRA KAVACH OM (HINDI)

Om must fight terrorists and amnesia after losing his memory while fighting enemies to restore his father's honour after his grandfather was detained for betraying his country. **Cast:** Aditya Roy Kapur, Sanjana Sanghi, Jackie Shroff, Ashutosh Rana, Prakash Raj and Prachee Shah Paandya **Watch on:** ZEE5

STARTUP WATCH

BACKSTORY

NuttyFox was started by **Subhashish Bharuka** in 2020 to create a clean-label snack brand that provides healthy, nutritious and tasty munching varieties. Catering to consumers of all age groups, the idea is to create a brand free of artificial preservatives, chemicals or additives.

NUTTYFOX

USP

Customised to suit the Indian as well as international palettes, the additives-free snacks are unique in taste, crunchy and fresh. Dry roasted and sprinkled with olive oil, the makhana not only keeps your snacking needs satiated but also helps keep the weight in check. With four different flavours of chilli lemon, peri peri, salt and pepper and sour cream onion in 80g packs, they also provide an option of raw makhana in 250g packs for those who like to roast their own snacks. Next month, they also look to bring out new trail mixes and other flavours.

FINANCE FUNDA

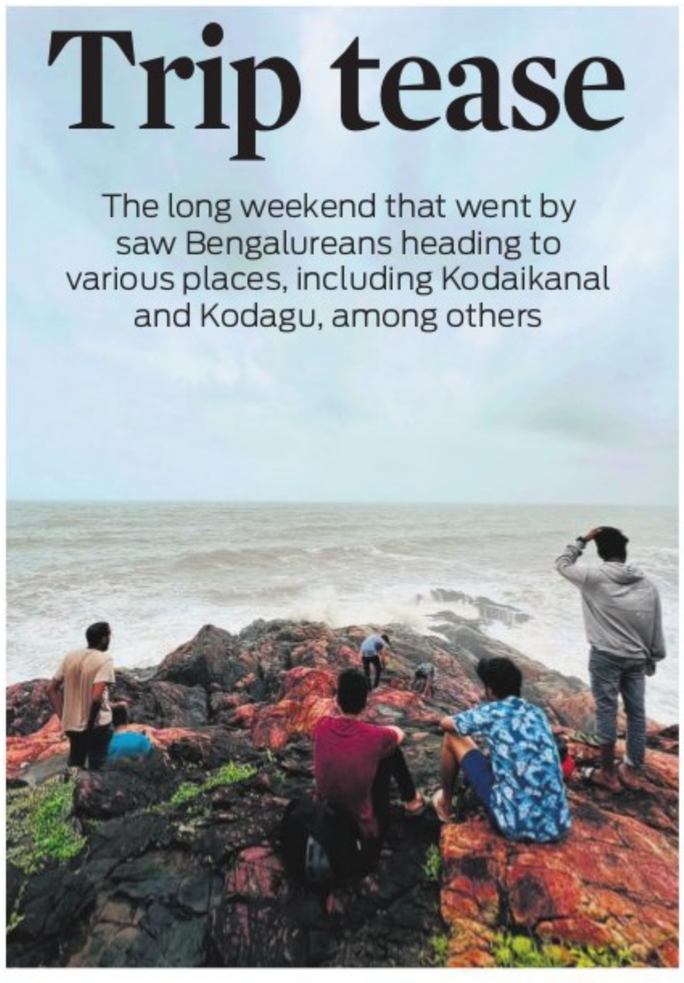
Being a bootstrapped brand, the company is self-funded and it looks to raise funds within this year.

TARGET AUDIENCE

With Indians eating close to 1.4 meals while snacking 2.5 times a day, the company wants to cater to everyone aged between two and 92, believing that snacking should be enjoyed by everyone. With 50 per cent of the customers being women aged between 24 and 45, their customer base is a mix and they see it growing. With a vision to create a healthy snack brand for India, and the global market using ethically-sourced Indian crops, they wish to launch new products and flavours.

Trip tease

The long weekend that went by saw Bengalureans heading to various places, including Kodaikanal and Kodagu, among others



In spite of the rain and rather capricious weather conditions, people continue to flock Kodagu. It just shows how desperate people are for a getaway

Aditi Appaiah

NEHA REBECCA CHACKO

MANY Bengalureans are reeling under holiday blues after returning from a long weekend. Beach camping, stargazing, boating, shell-collecting or simply lazing around... that's what Govind Lal's weekend has been about in Gokarna. The 21-year-old, who has taken a year off to travel, says, "The sea, the wind, everything is just calm and aesthetic. You can feel your body going into relaxation mode."

Many of us are not the sandy-sams or beach-beauties but are more like history-harries. For Bengalureans, Mysuru and Chikkamagaluru have always been the frequent weekend destinations which include the Mysuru Palace, Chamundi Hills, Amrutesvara Temple, and the Kemmangundi Peak. "My friends told me to stop spamming my Instagram stories with the pictures from the Mysuru Palace, but it's so beautiful," says Anantha Narayanan, a recent graduate, who took this weekend opportunity to travel with his family. "I'm going to Ooty next, I want to take a break from the city, and forget about college and the worries of study for a while," he says.

Ooty, Kodagu, and Kodaikanal may sound too mainstream for a holiday but sometimes when you need a quick breath of fresh air, if it isn't to their forested hills, evergreen valleys, tranquil lakes and the cascading waterfalls, where else do you go? "In spite of the rain and rather capricious weather conditions, people continue to flock the place. It just shows how desperate people are for a getaway," says Aditi Appaiah, who is currently job-hunting.

To cut down on travel time, many visited places closer home, including Nandi Hills to watch the sunset, and the Lalbagh Botanical Garden which is hosting the flower show after a hiatus of two years, featuring an assortment of flowers from New Zealand, Kenya, and Argentina.

"We went quite early," says a visitor, to avoid the crowd of approximately 10 lakh. "It was a bit underwhelming to be honest. The entire show was in the glass house. The flowers were beautiful but the crowds were too much. This time they have decided to pay tribute to Dr Rajkumar and Puneeth Rajkumar, which was lovely," he says.

CITY READ

Hospital holds event to create awareness on breastfeeding

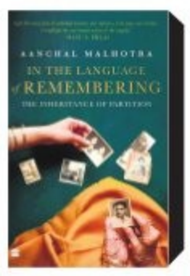
Manipal Hospital, Yeswanthpur hosted an event dedicated to educating lactating and expectant mothers, on the hospital grounds. The event was inaugurated by Kannada actor Pranitha Subhash in the presence of a few medical experts from Manipal Hospital Yeswanthpur. The objective of the event was to spread awareness among young mothers and families about the importance of breastmilk and to create a breastfeeding-friendly environment for young mothers. A panel discussion was also arranged to talk at length about concerns regarding mental trauma during pregnancy and post-delivery, re-lactation and busting myths about breastfeeding in order to ensure proper guidance on how to feed infants.

BOOK NOOK

Bruised Passports: Travelling the World as Digital Nomads

By Savi Munjal & Vidit Taneja

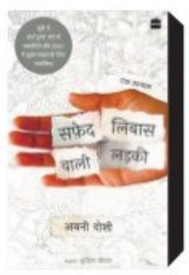
Inspired by their lives, Savi and Vid tell you how to be successful digital nomads.



In the Language of Remembering: The Inheritance of Partition

By Aanchal Malhotra

Brings together conversations recorded over many years with generations of Indians, Pakistanis, Bangladeshis, and their respective diaspora.



Safed Libaas Wali Ladki

By Avni Doshi

A journey into shifting memories, altering identities, and the subjective nature of truth. Tracing the fragile line between familial devotion and deception, this novel will surprise and unsettle you.

Cricket Ka Commonwealth

By Ramachandra Guha

Blending memoir, anecdotes, reportage & political critique, the book is a rivetingly readable account of cricket as played in the country that has made this sport its own.

WHAT WHEN WHY WHERE

Strings and bows

Listen to Lalgudi GJR Krishnan and Lalgudi Vijayalakshmi engage in a violin duet.

WHEN: August 16, 6 pm
WHERE: Odukathur Mutt, Ulsoor
DETAILS: allevents.in

Stretch those muscles

Focus on your flexibility, agility, breathing and endurance by attending this yoga workshop and experience the improvements.

WHEN: August 16, 7 pm
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Watch how the youth of today deals with identity crisis, validation and stereotypes attached to one's conception of 'respect'. **WHEN:** August 16, 7.30 pm **WHERE:** Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar **DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com

Melodious nights

Sing to your heart's content and let the crowd join you at this late night karaoke party

WHEN: August 16, 10 pm
WHERE: Marcopolo Cafe, Koramangala
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Aesthetic arts

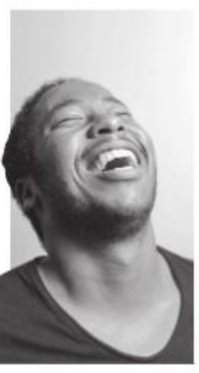
Learn to resin craft and create your own patterns of skies, beaches, fish and flowers among others.

WHEN: August 16, 12 pm
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Story time

Listen to the stories within a story about a particular college fight and where Mohd Suhel stands in all this.

WHEN: August 16, 7.30 pm
WHERE: Flax - Healthy Living, 80 Feet Road
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com



THREADS AND NEEDLES

Attend this DIY crochet workshop to get acquainted with the techniques and skills of crocheting. **WHEN:** August 16, 12 pm **DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com

Shop till you drop

Splurge at the three-day long fashion festival with a variety of designers showcasing their works.

WHEN: August 16, 10.30 am **WHERE:** The LaLiT Ashok, Seshadripuram **DETAILS:** explocity.com

Spin the wheel

Try your hand at poetry and learn to wedge, sculpt and get introduced to various techniques of pottery and ceramics.

WHEN: August 16, 9 am
WHERE: Lahe Lahe, Kodihalli
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

ART FROM THE HEART

JD Institute of Fashion Technology has organised a four-day exhibition on photography, jewellery and interior designing at Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath till August 18

QUICK FIX

BA LA LOT

Contributed by: **Shardul Nigam,** Bengaluru

INGREDIENTS

■ **Chicken mince:** 300 g ■ **Betel leaves:** 10 nos. ■ **Garlic chopped:** 20 g ■ **Shallots chopped:** 20 g ■ **Chilli flakes:** 5 g ■ **Oyster sauce:** 15 g ■ **Light soy:** 15 g ■ **Peanuts:** 20 g ■ **Sweet chilli sauce:** To serve

METHOD

- Combine the chicken mince along with garlic, shallots, chilli flakes, oyster sauce, light soy and peanuts.
- Thoroughly wash the betel leaves in cold water.
- Blanch the betel leaves in boiling water and immediately transfer the leaves into ice cold water.
- Place the leaf on a flat surface and place a small amount of mixture in the centre of the leaf.
- Roll the leaf in a cylindrical form.
- Steam the rolled leaves in a steamer for 7-8 minutes.
- After steaming the grill, the rolled leaves 2-3 minutes for giving it a smoky flavour.
- Serve along with sweet chilli sauce.

What's cooking in your kitchen?

We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com

FIT BIT

ANJANEYASANA VARIATION

(HIGH LUNGE POSE VARIATION)

This pose gets its name after Lord Anjayeya's mother named Anjani. This pose brings the same kind of power and strength as Lord Anjaneya possess when practiced the right way. Traditionally, it stimulates both the Muladhara (root) and Svadisthana (spleen or sacral) chakras. This pose helps with indigestion, constipation and sciatica.

STEPS

- Begin in Adho Mukha Svanasana (Downward Facing Dog Pose).
- As you exhale, step your right foot forward, between your hands. Lower your left knee to the floor, slide the foot back until you feel a nice stretch in the left hip and thigh.
- Shift your hips back to stack over your left knee. Make sure that the left heel is lefted up. Flex and press the right sole of your foot on the floor.
- On an inhalation, lift your arms up, keep Anjali Mudra. Keep your spine straight and gaze in front of you. Make sure that your left knee is placed on the ground.
- Keep a small bend at your left foot to prevent hyperextension. Engage your quadriceps.
- Focus on pulling the pinky toe of your right foot back and pressing forward with the ball of your right foot under the big toe.
- Hold the pose for up to 60 seconds before ending the front knee and returning to a lunge. Repeat with the other leg.

BENEFITS

- Stretches your hips, hamstrings, calves lower back and psoas muscles.
- Stretches and strengthens the groin and hip flexors.
- Helps to relieve sciatica pain and improve core strength and body balance.
- Encourages patience and devotion.
- Strengthens your hamstrings, quadriceps, gluteus maximus and calf muscles.
- Stimulates the abdominal organs and tones the reproductive organs.
- Engages the deep core muscles, which help create stability.
- Builds strength for the muscles that support the knee. Tones pelvic floor.

LIMITATIONS

People recovering from an injury of the joints of the coccygeal (tailbone), hips, pelvis, knees, ankles, and neck problems, and pregnant women should avoid this asana.

By N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

NOW STREAMING

REGIONAL

GARUDA GAMANA VRISHABHA VAHANA (Kannada)

In the coastal city of Mangaluru, best friends Shiva and Hari go on to become two of the most dreaded gangsters in the city. Can their long-standing friendship survive their greed and ego?

Cast: Raj B Shetty, Rishab Shetty, Gopal Krishna Deshpande

Watch on: Zee5

DARLINGS (Hindi)

Badru hopes her volatile husband will reform if he stops drinking. But when his rage goes too far, she and her mom boldly, albeit clumsily, seek revenge.

Cast: Alia Bhatt, Shefali Shah, Vijay Varma

Watch on: Netflix

SHERSHAAH (Hindi)

The story of a PVC awardee brave Indian soldier, Capt. Vikram Batra, who shot to fame during the Kargil War. His unflinching courage in chasing the Pakistani soldiers out of Indian territory contributed immensely in India finally winning the war in 1999.

Cast: Sidharth Malhotra, Kiara Advani, Shiv Panditt

Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

BACHELOR (Tamil)

A deeply flawed guy with behavioural issues and conservative background gets into a live-in relationship with a modern girl, and problems follow.

Cast: GV Prakash Kumar, Divyabharathi, Muniskanth, Bhagavathi Perumal

Watch on: Sony LIV

PUZHU (Malayalam)

A retired police officer has been living a peaceful life with his son. However, he becomes suspicious of all those around him, including his young son, when the attempts on his life increase. Who wants the retired policeman dead and why is he after him?

Cast: Mammootty, Parvathy Thiruvothu, Malavika Menon, Athmeeya Rajan, Nedumudi Venu, Vasudev Sajeesh Marar

Watch on: Sony LIV

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

NATHICHARAMI (Telugu)

Reeling from the loss of her husband, a widow struggles to fulfill her physical and emotional desires despite social taboos around female sexuality.

Cast: Sruthi Hariharan, Sanchari Vijay, Sharanya

Watch on: Netflix

CLAP (Telugu)

Vishnu, a retired athlete, gives up on his dreams of winning a national gold medal, after an accident that required him to undergo amputation. Things take a turn when Vishnu finds out about an athlete, who couldn't fulfil her dreams like him. He decides to take it upon himself to help her win a national medal.

Cast: Aadhi, Aakanksha Singh, Krisha Kurup, Brahmaji, Nassar, Prakash Raj, Mime Gopi, 'Mundasupatti' Ramdoss

Watch on: Sony LIV

FOREIGN

MEMORY (English)

Alex, an assassin-for-hire, finds that he's become a target after he refuses to complete a job for a dangerous criminal organisation. With the crime syndicate and FBI in hot pursuit, Alex has the skills to stay ahead, except for one thing: he is struggling with severe memory loss, affecting his every move. Alex must question his every action and whom he can ultimately trust.

Cast: Liam Neeson, Guy Pearce, Taj Atwal

Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

MOTHER (Japanese)

Shuhei's erratic mother feels threatened when he starts to awaken to a world beyond her distorted control, sending the family hurtling towards tragedy. **Cast:** Masami Nagasawa, Sadao Abe, Daiken Okudaira

Watch on: Netflix

SOUNDS LIVE LOVE (Spanish)

Just as Maca's career reaches an inflection point, the enigmatic ex who broke her heart reappears in Madrid and she turns to her friends for support.

Cast: María Valverde, Álex González, Elisabet Casanovas **Watch on:** Netflix

DARK WATERS (English)

The film revolves around the life of a corporate lawyer, Robert Bilott, who's approached by a stranger to fight against a highly esteemed chemical company, DuPont. The investigation shocks Robert with the brutal reality of DuPont's business ways where people become its collateral damage. Robert tries to free the people from the evil clutches of DuPont, while his own life hangs in the balance.

Cast: Mark Ruffalo, Anne Hathaway, Tim Robbins

Watch on: SonyLIV

SUBSCRIPTION

Disney+Hotstar:	₹199 for 3 months
Zee5:	₹399 for 3 months
Prime Video:	₹179 per month
Netflix:	₹149 per month

AARPPO VRROOM...

AS THE FESTIVE SEASON NEARS, AUTOMOBILE FIRMS HAVE COME UP WITH A SLEW OF OFFERS TO REV UP THE MARKET

RENAULT

Renault India offers benefits up to ₹35,000 for Kwid and up to ₹45,000 for Triber. Additionally, there are discounts on the EasyCare package. The recently face-lifted compact SUV Kiger has no cash discounts, but the easy care offer and accessory offers are available.

MARUTI SUZUKI

India's biggest automobile brand Maruti Suzuki has announced discounts and exchange offers for many of its models.

- ₹12,000 and an exchange bonus of ₹10,000 for the existing Alto
- ₹40,000 discount and ₹20,000 exchange bonus on SPresso and Celerio
- ₹30,000 discount and ₹15,000 exchange bonus on Ignis
- ₹25,000 discount exchange offer on Wagon R
- The other Dzire has ₹20,000 + ₹10,000, Swift ₹15,000 + ₹10,000, Eeco with `15,000 + ₹10,000

New models like Brezza, XL6, Baleno etc have no such offers

XPRESS HIGHWAY

FORTNIGHTLY SEGMENT ON WHAT'S REVVING UP IN THE AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR

TIME FOR TUCSON

Hyundai launched its premium five-seater SUV Tucson in India, with a price range of `27.7 lakh to `34.39 lakh. One of its highlighting features is Level2-ADAS (available only on the higher signature trim), advanced driver assists and autonomous safety systems. The fourth-generation Tucson comes to India with the longest wheelbase of 4630 mm, while a shorter version is also available globally. The wheelbase of the new Tucson is 85mm longer compared to the outgoing model. It comes with 2-litre petrol as well as diesel engines. TUCSON has powerful diesel engine which offers 137 kW of power and 416 Nm of torque. There is no manual gearbox on offer, but the all-wheel drive system with multi-terrain modes is an option on the top diesel variant. The waiting period stands at 8 -10 months, as per the current bookings.

POWER-PACKED JEEP COMPASS

Jeep Compass is celebrating its fifth anniversary in India. To celebrate the occasion, the American brand has launched a special anniversary edition. The new edition comes sporting a handful of exclusive features including grille accents and commemorative badging. It comes with granite crystal finish alloy wheels, body-coloured claddings, accent colour roof rails, satin granite crystal cloured body and leather seats with light tungsten accent stitching and lots more. The new edition comes with two engine options – both petrol and diesel.

RIDER'S DREAM

Honda BigWing expands its presence in the mid-size segment with the powerful and sporty CB300F. The all-new model in the advanced streetfighter design ensures a powerful riding experience with a 293cc oil-cooled 4-valve SOHC engine. It is a hassle-free for city rides and long-distance touring. Honda's Selectable Torque Control brings stability during slippery conditions by ensuring optimum traction. Dual channel ABS, assist & slipper clutch, USD front forks, front & rear disc brakes, 6-speed transmission are some highlights. The CB300F will be available in 2 variants - Deluxe & Deluxe Pro.

HYUNDAI

The South Korean brand has announced customer offers, exchange bonuses, corporate offers etc and a scratch-and-win scheme for the festive season. The scheme is worth ₹2.5 crore, according to the company. Five grams gold coin, comprehensive extended warranty, car-care kit and Hyundai Shield of Trust are the assured gifts in it.

Grand i10 Nios, Aura and i20 have attractive customer offers, ranging from ₹20,000 to ₹48,000. Offers are available till September 15.

TATA MOTORS

Tata Motors, India's leading automotive brand, announced its consumer offers for its passenger vehicles ahead of the Onam. Kerala is among the company's top three markets in the country. All Tata cars and SUVs are leading in their respective segments in the state. That is why, without fail, the industry giant has extended exciting offers up to ₹60,000 on its various models with priority delivery. Tata Motors has tied up with leading PSUs and private and regional financiers for attractive finance schemes.

Here are some:

Up to 95% on-road finance and 7-year loan tenure for no income proof customers.

₹60,000 special discount for SUVs Harrier and Safari.

₹25,000 discount on Altroz, Tiago and Tigor.

SWANKY, POWERFUL HUNTER 350

Royal Enfield has launched the new Hunter 350, a modern-looking, youthful motorcycledesigned to tackle crowded city streets, suburban back-roads and beyond. It is a little smaller than Classic and Meteor and also slightly lighter with the same J-Series 350 cc engine with 20.2hp peak power and 27Nm torque. It comes in two distinct editions - Retro Hunter and Metro Hunter. Retro Hunter runs on 17-inch spoked wheels and has a 300mm front disc brake combined with a 6-inch rear drum brake and single-channel ABS. The Metro Hunter has dual-colour liveries, cast alloy wheels, wide and tubeless tyres. Price starts at ₹1,49,900 (ex-showroom Chennai) & goes up to ₹1,68,900.

On vanishing conversations

OPEN SPACE
Tina Shashikanth
Chief Sub Editor
ruchita@newindianexpress.com

RENOWNED Kannada critic and scholar Dr Rahamat Tarikere is acknowledged for his extensive research on various undercurrents of Kannada literature and bringing forth some brilliant insights into the literary works and authors we are already familiar with. He is very approachable, fearless and is active on social media. I look forward to his posts. Of late, he has been writing about his family members. He not only captures their colourful personas, but also brings in some important milestones, while giving the reader a peak into the lives of members of a community at different points of time. You react to each character-sketch. It feels like you are having a great conversation with the author himself.

This is something that I have been missing lately -sitting down with a bunch of friends and being part of a good banter - without having to bother about fallouts, being blocked, unfriended, cancelled or branded.

I remember my university days. After our classes, library runs, seminars and canteen surfing, we used to gather under the statue of Kuvempu.

Someone would start loudly reciting a poem. Someone would comment on it. Someone else would present an opposing view. A senior would mention a freshly launched book or a political development and all would join in, until we were all shouting so loud, we could not make sense of what was being said.At times, a debate would grow fierce and someone would suddenly walk out, fuming. The next day, the same people would be seen sharing a cigarette at the cafeteria.Once we celebrated a birthday during a solar eclipse. Conversations were an essential part of our youth. I cannot imagine it otherwise.

Cultural observer Anna Narinskayablames the disappearance of the conversation on 'a suffocating experience of stability' that has left people with only small talks. This, I think, very much applies to the ever-expanding Bengaluru. Hop into a bus, a metro or an inter-city train, you hardly get to see people conversing with each other. They seem content to be in their respective bubbles, not bothering about the rest of the world. Why bother about the clamour when you have noise-cancelling earphones?

Another development Narinskaya cites is – mutual hostility – the endless presentation of irreconcilable positions, which is the only thing people on social networks have been doing lately. Along with Narinskaya, many of usunderstandby now that we have reached a social dead-endwhen it comes to having real-time conversations. All that we witness are egotistic arguments and permanent fallouts.

Before the pandemic, a friend used to run a tiny literary platform called 'Sankathana' at RavindraKalakshetra where people just sat down and had discussions on various topics. Conversation just started and flowed. I recall, on the last week of Karthika month, we spent one of these lovely soirees lighting numerous lamps, recited poems and spoke about them. It was exactly like what author John Greensays: "In the best conversations, you don't even remember what you talked about, only how it felt. It felt like we were in some place your body can't visit, some place with no ceiling and no walls and no floor and no instruments."

ILLUSTRATION: SOURAV ROY

75 YEARS OF UNEQUAL EDUCATION

TANOJ MESHRAM

WHEN India became independent in 1947, Indian leaders were aware of the dismal state of education in the country. Crude literacy in undivided India was only 16% because of the low penetration of basic education,which could be attributed not only to the British government's apathy towards the development of the Indian masses but also to the culture of denial of education to the underprivileged sections of society, including women.

Therefore, while enacting the Constitution, pro-education and anti-caste groups demanded that education be made a fundamental right. However, others were not interested in changing the status quo, citing the non-availability of resources to fulfill a constitutional commitment. In this competing political atmosphere, the Constituent Assembly in 1949 adopted Article 45 as a non-judicial provision of India's constitution which directed the State to provide, within 10 years, free and compulsory education to all children until they attain the age of 14.

Literacy rose merely to 24% in 10 years. To rectify the situation, the government appointed Kothari Commission (1964). Among other things, the Commission recommended the introduction of a common public education system and a gradual increase in government investment in education from the then 2.9% of GDP to 6% by 1985-86.

In this historical context of reluctance, sub-optimal policy design, and poor implementation, the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) was brought in 2000 by the "Paper Tiger" state (Mathur, 2015). Under pressure from rising aspirations of the victims of caste in the post-Mandal era and the global movement for Education for Allthat started in 1990 at Jomtien, for the first time, the notion of universality was brought into education policy. The RTE Act, which came seven years after the 86th Constitutional amendment and almost 50 years after the promised date in the Constituent Assembly, did not propose radical structural reforms needed to provide equitable quality education to all by making necessary changes in the institutional and policy eco systems and continued the SSA policy of universalizing low-quality education.

The results speak for themselves. After more than seven decades of independence, we have a low-quality, pro-private, hierarchical school system. A vast majority of poor parents are not sure if the education their children get will help them realise a decent living if not an egalitarian social and economic order as the preamble and directive principles of state policy promise. Ironically, the hierarchical education system in India matches the graded inequality that signifies the caste system, with RTE norms made inferior to CBSE norms.The rich send their children to well-managed unaided private schools, and the poor are left with not-so-well managed low fee private schools and sub-optimally designed and inadequately resourced government schools.

The question is will we take this opportunity of India at 75 and reflect and allow education to become an instrument of social change or make some of us feel disheartened again after 25 years about 100 years of unequal education?

(The author is associate professor, Management & Society, and Chairperson, Post Graduate Programme in Development Management (PGPDM) at SPJIMR, Mumbai)

INDIAN EXPRESS CLASSIFIEDS

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I, (OLD NAME) VIDYAA HEBALALLU PRAVEEN alias VIDYAA . H. PRAVEEN Residing at No. A-305, Mantri Elegance, Bannerghatta Road, N.S. Palya, Bangalore - 560 076, India. Have changed my name from (OLD NAME) VIDYAA HEBALALLU PRAVEEN alias VIDYAA. H. PRAVEEN to (NEW NAME) VIDYAA PRAVEEN vide Affidavit Dated 11.08.2022 Sworn before Notary GOPI .N, Bangalore.

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A still from the film *Love 360*

'MY ONLY THOUGHT WAS TO MAKE THE RIGHT KIND OF ENTRY'

A SHARADHAA

PRAVEEN, a doctor by profession, harboured a strong passion for acting since childhood. The young talent is now all set to mark his Sandalwood debut with *Love 360*, a romantic thriller helmed by Shashank (*Mogginna Manasu* and *Krishna Leela* fame). Expressing his elation, Praveen is equally anxious about the release of *Love 360*, which is set to hit the screens on August 19. Praveen says that it took 2 years for him to find the right director. "We were looking for a good director, and it was my uncle (Nagaraj), a distributor in the Telugu industry for the last 3 years, who introduced me to Shashank. He felt the director is known to introduce newcomers, and I thought it was a good move. I have watched most of his films, and Krishna Leela directed by him is one of my favourites."

Talking about the training he underwent in his career,

Praveen

Praveen said, "I trained in acting for 2 years. I also took part in the workshop held by Shashank for 2 months before facing the camera," says Praveen, adding, "My only thought was to make the right kind of entry, and I left it to the director's vision."

Agreeing that he has a long way to go, Praveen says, "My current focus is on myself, and I'm going by the guidance given by my uncle."

Love 360 is billed as a love story, and features Praveen as a boat mechanic. Sharing his experiences of working with Shashank, "I was part of a few fight sequences in this romantic action thriller, and it was the toughest part of being an actor. However, I thoroughly enjoyed doing the stunts. Shashank was a cool director and enabled me to understand the intricacies of acting. I liked the way he frames his scenes. He is a director, who respects the time and films accordingly," he says.

Love 360, made under the director's home banner Shashank Cinema, has Rachana Inder sharing screen space alongside Praveen. The film has Arjun Janya scoring the music, and the song Jagave Neene Gelathiya from the album is already a chartbuster. Abhilash Kalathi is handling the camerawork for the film.

MANSORE'S NEW POSTER FROM *19.20.21* CREATES INTEREST

CE FEATURES

THE maker of films like *Harivu, Naticharami, ACT 1978*, director Mansore has released an intriguing poster of his next *19.20.21* on the occassion of Independence Day.

The film about human rights violation shows a man (Sampath Maithreya) beaten up, soaked in blood and fallen on the ground, and the team says that the film is based on true events, just like Suriya's *Jai Bhim*.

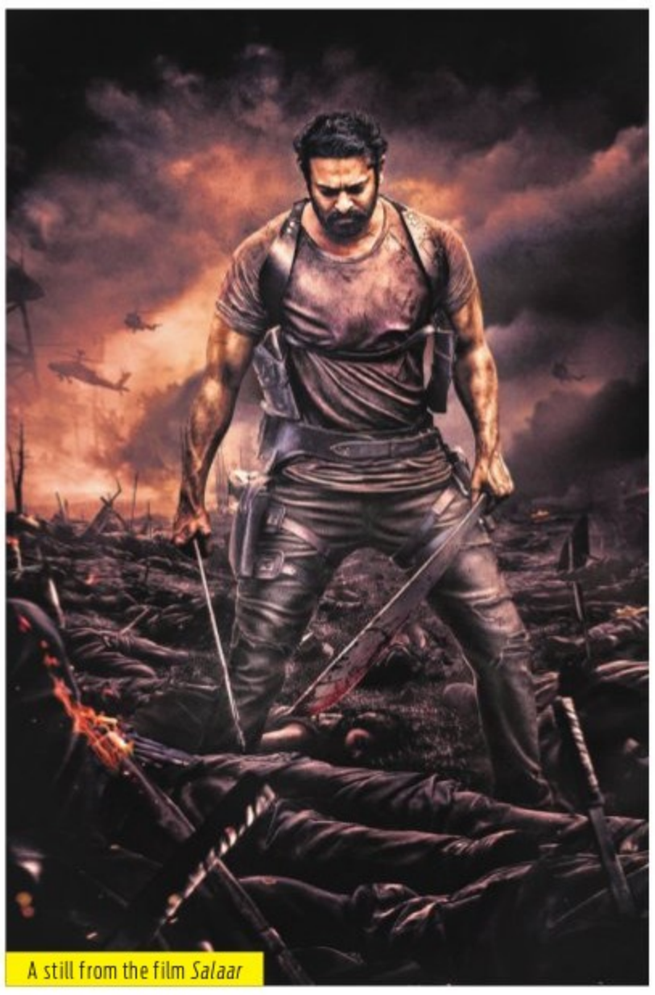
19.20.21 cast also comprises of Balaji Manohar, MD Pallavi, Shrunga, Sampath Maithreya, Avinash, Krishna Hebbale and others in pivotal roles in *19.20.21*.

The film is backed by Devraj banner, D Creations. Bindumalini will be scoring music, and Bukkesh wil be doing the background score. Cinematography is done by Shivu BK Kumar, Editing by Arumugam. Story is written by Mansore and Veerendra Mallanna has dialogues penned by Veerendra Mallanna and Avinash G.

The team has completed shooting for the film and now in the post production stage.

A still from the film *19.20.21*

PRABHAS-PRASHANTH NEEL'S *SALAAR* RELEASE DATE ANNOUNCED



A still from the film *Salaar*

CE FEATURES

THE Prabhas-starrer *Salaar* will release on September 28, 2023, the makers announced on Monday, marking the occasion of Independence day. The post read, "Rebelling worldwide on September 28, 2023. The Era of Salaar Begins."(sic) The announcement poster featured Prabhas standing on the battlefield with two swords in his hand.

Directed by Prashanth Neel, the film also stars Shruti Haasan, Jagapathi Babu, Easwari Rao and Madhu Guruswamy in prominent roles, with Malayalam actor Prithviraj Sukumaran in a crucial cameo. Salaar has cinematography by Bhuvan Gowda, editing by Ujwal Kulkarni and music composed by Ravi Basrur. The film is bankrolled by Vijay Kiragandur under Hombale Films. Prabhas was last seen in Radhe Shyam. He will also be seen in Adipurush, Project K and Sandeep Reddy Vanga's Spirit. While Adipurush will hit the screens on January 12 next year, the other films are in different stages of production.

THE ART OF REIMAGINATION

RAM VENKAT SRIKAR

FOR Will Graham, his latest creation, the Amazon Prime Video series, *A League of Their Own*, based on Penny Marshall's 1992 sports dramedy by the same name, has a personal connection. "I grew up with the movie. It was one of my mom's favourite films," Graham says. "I played baseball for seven years and I was terrible at it. I was a little queer kid who felt I shouldn't be on the field and there was something in the movie that comforted me. I always loved the moment where Geena Davis catches the ball with her bare hand." Graham explains that it is the universality of the story that encouraged him to take up the project. "A couple of years ago, we were looking into the stories underneath the subject and felt they were definitely worth telling. They are for everyone."

In today's age, filmmakers and studios are under scrutiny every time a reboot, rehash, retelling, spin-off, remake or any new iteration of a popular source material surfaces. Fans of the original are not easily forgiving. Naturally, this places a tremendous amount of pressure on the creators. And when the source material is as revered as A League of Their Own, the pressure to live up to the name of the original grows multifold. Graham, who co-created the show, with Abbi Jacobson, definitely understands this. "We don't see the series as a reboot of the movie. We see it more as a reimagination," Graham says. "We borrowed the amazing tone Penny Marshall and the cast had set and tried to look at the stories through a wider lens. In fact, I had an incredible opportunity to talk to Penny before she passed away. We described what we wanted to do and got her support. It was wonderful."

The "tone" that Graham refers to is the USP of the series. The formation of a World War II-era women's professional baseball team is central to the show, which follows several young American women and their stories. Serious conflicts like racism and sexism are addressed but the humourous and light-hearted tone remains intact. Graham feels it was vital to maintain this balance. "This is a show about joy and people finding their dreams and themselves. We didn't want the obstacles to take the centre stage. We are talking about women, queer people, and women of colour at that point in history; this world wasn't made for them. It is a part of the story, but that's not what the story is entirely about."

The project, which entered development in 2017, premiered five years later, overcoming multiple pandemic waves. "There have been a lot of challenges and yes, it did take a while. We have always believed that these stories were way bigger than us. What kept me going was the joy at the centre of these stories. We got to know these women really well and they had to deal with much harder things than developing a TV Show. Finding the energy to keep going was not so hard," Graham concludes with a smile.

SALMAN KHAN-KATRINA KAIF'S *TIGER 3* GETS A RELEASE DATE

CE FEATURES

ON the occasion of Independence day, which marks the 10-year anniversary of spy actioner, *Ek Tha Tiger*, Salman Khan has announced the release date of the third film in the Tiger franchise, *Tiger 3*. Salman took to his social media platforms to share the news along with a video that features clips from the first two films. The third film will be released on 21 April, 2023, coinciding with Eid.

Tiger 3 is set to take forward the long-going tradition of releasing Salman's films on the festival date, from *Wanted* in 2009 to *Radhe* in 2021 (which premiered on ZEE5 through the pay-per-view model). Returning alongside Salman is Katrina Kaif, who plays Zoya, a Pakistani spy in the franchise. The first film was directed by Kabir Khan, while the second film, *Tiger Zinda Hai*, directed by Ali Abbas Zafar, was released in December 2017. *Tiger 3* is being helmed by Maneesh Sharma who has previously directed Band Baaja Bhaarath and Fan. The film is being produced by Aditya Chopra through Yash Raj Films and will release in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu.

John Abraham announces new film *Tariq*

CE FEATURES

JOHN Abraham announced his next film *Tariq*, on the occasion of India's 76th Independence Day, on Monday. Besides featuring in the film, the actor is also co-producing it.

Tariq is slated to release on August 15 next year. It is directed by Arun Gopalan, who is also helming John's film Tehran. *Tariq* is written by Ritesh Shah and Lalit Marathe. It will be produced by John along with Shobna Yadav and Sandeep Leyzell.

John made the announcement on Instagram and wrote, "Aazadi ki 'Tariq', 15 August, 2023. 'Tariq' is our next creative collaboration with Bake My Cake Films after Tehran and Batla House. Time to celebrate the freedom to tell good stories. #AzadiKaAmritMahotsav."

John was last seen in the Mohit Suri directorial *Ek Villain Returns*. He will next be seen in *Pathaan*, with Shah Rukh Khan and Deepika Padukone.

Indian Film Festival of Melbourne 2022: Ranveer, Shefali bag top honours

CE FEATURES

THE winners of the 13th edition of The Indian Film Festival of Melbourne were announced on Sunday. While the Best Film award was bagged by Kabir Khan's *83*, its star Ranveer Singh received the Best Actor trophy. Shefali Shah, who was recently seen in Netflix's Darlings, got the Best Actress award for *Jalsa*.

The event, held annually in Australia, celebrates the India film industry by screening some of the most prominent and acclaimed films, TV shows, and web series from the country.

The IFFM began on Friday, August 12 and will conclude on August 30. The in-person event ends on August 20, beyond which the festival continues virtually for another 10 days. On Sunday, August 14, the festival's awards night was held at the Palais Theatre.

CHECK OUT THE FULL LIST OF WINNERS HERE

Best Film: 83

Best Director: Shoojit Sircar (Sardar Udham) and Aparna Sen (The Rapist)

Best Actor: Ranveer Singh (83)

Best Actress: Shefali Shah (Jalsa)

Best Series: Mumbai Diaries 26/11

Best Actor in a Series: Mohit Raina (Mumbai Diaries 26/11)

Best Actress in a Series: Sakshi Tanwar (Mai)

Best Indie Film: Jaggi

Best Film from the Subcontinent: Joyland

Lifetime Achievement Award: Kapil Dev

Disruptor in Cinema Award: Vaani Kapoor (Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui)

Equality in Cinema Award: Jalsa

Leadership in Cinema Award: Abhishek Bachchan